

Egyptian FM due in Amman

AMMAN (AFP) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mosa is due in Amman Saturday for a two-day working visit, an official said Sunday. Mosa will hold talks with Foreign Minister Abdul Ilah Khatib on the latest developments in the Middle East as well as bilateral relations, the official said. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak met in Cairo Thursday with Khatib and Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh.

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Mayo Clinic: King responding positively to treatment, showing stable progress

U.S. State Department denies Israeli newspaper report; Sharon says remarks attributed to him false

By Francesca Ciriaci

AMMAN — Mayo Clinic, the U.S. Israel, and the government yesterday categorically dismissed as false an uncorroborated Israeli newspaper report claiming that His Majesty King Hussein was terminally ill.

A spokesman for the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, where the King is undergoing chemotherapy for a B-cell lymphoma, declared that His Majesty is "responding very satisfactorily to the treatment and is showing stable progress."

The denials followed a report from the Washington correspondents of Israel's Yedioth Aharonot newspaper on Sunday claiming that the King was unlikely to resume his full duties as head of state.

The Israeli newspaper quoted an anonymous U.S. official source as expressing "deep concern" about the King's recovery in conversations with members of the Israeli delegation at this week's Mideast peace summit at the Wye Plantation, near Washington.

Yedioth Aharonot claimed that the King's illness could lead to political disturbances in the region which might

call for the U.S. to ask Israel to interfere in order to prevent any imbalance and to ensure Jordan's stability in case the country's leadership was unable to deal with the new stage that might ensue.

But the U.S. State Department declared that King Hussein's health is improving and that the King "has been making good progress" under treatment.

"King Hussein has been very open about his battle with cancer," said the statement.

"He has been undergoing treatment under the direction of a team of the finest specialists in the world, and has been making good progress."

"We look forward to his full recovery and we, like people all over the world, are keeping him in our thoughts and prayers."

The statement said both President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright had spoken with the King in recent days to consult with him over the Mideast summit at Wye.

"We have also stayed in close touch with Crown Prince Hassan, including in a call this morning [Sunday] with Secretary Albright," the statement said.

"We have great confidence



in Crown Prince Hassan, who has been and remains a very able partner for King Hussein, as well as for the United States," Washington stated.

"Both the King and the Crown Prince have continued to play very active and helpful roles in support of the peace process and the Wye peace talks."

"The U.S. commitment to Jordan is ironclad based on our deep, long-standing and shared interest in regional peace and stability. We will

continue to do all we can to demonstrate that commitment, working closely with King Hussein, Crown Prince Hassan and the Jordanian government."

U.S. State Department spokesman James Rubin said in response to a question during a press conference at the Wye Plantation that the State Department statement was prompted by a "rather dramatic" account in one of the media outlets in the region "that was way out of line."

The report "indicated that we have concluded that the King's condition is terminal, that is not true," [it] said that we have concerns about Crown Prince Hassan's ability to maintain stability, that is not true, we have confidence in Crown Prince Hassan; [it] said we have had high level meetings to discuss the day after in Jordan, that is not true," said Rubin.

Rubin also said Albright called the Crown Prince to assure him that the Israeli report was not true.

Also Sunday, Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh told the foreign press in Amman that Albright telephoned the Regent dismissing the Israeli report.

Yedioth Aharonot had also quoted Israel's new Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon, who met with the King in the U.S. on Friday, as saying His Majesty enjoyed high morale, but did not look healthy.

The quote which appeared in Yedioth Aharonot, claiming that I made reference to the King's health state, is false," Sharon said in a written denial he issued from Wye.

(Continued on page 12)

National dialogue starts on positive note

By Francesca Ciriaci

AMMAN — The government on Sunday said that the national dialogue with civil society institutions will be open and that neither the elections nor the press laws will be excluded from the agenda.

Agriculture Minister Mijhem Khreisla told journalists at yesterday's two-and-a-half-hour meeting between Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh and his "national dialogue" team on the one hand and leaders of the country's 13 professional associations on the other covered "public freedoms, Jordanian detainees and prisoners in foreign jails, normalisation [of ties with Israel], and the elections and press laws."

Khreisla said the lengthy talks, the first such encounter in the much-awaited national dialogue, were "very frank, and the atmosphere was very positive."

Hassan Jabbar, president of the Jordanian Agricultural Engineers Association, currently holding the six-month rotating chair of the Council of Presidents of Professional Associations, described the meeting as "a first step in the right direction, a very good start."

Such positive remarks by both sides put an end to earlier scepticism by union and political party leaders following a statement on Friday by Interior Minister Yaqef Qadi that "the press and publications and the elections laws will not be subject to discussion during the series of meetings in the [framework of the] national dialogue."

Jordan's strongest political party, the Islamic Action Front, on Saturday criticised Qadi's statement and warned that the exclusion of these two controversial issues from the agenda would render the projected dialogue "meaningless."

But according to Hosni Abu Gheida, president of the influential Jordanian Engineers Association, yesterday's meeting concluded that Qadi's statement had been "misunderstood."

"The government said it had nothing to say about the laws for its part, except that it respects them as any other legislation regularly endorsed by Parliament," Abu Gheida told the Jordan Times.

"But [the government also said] this did not mean that these two laws were out of the realm of discussion."

According to Jabbar, the associations and the government agreed that there will be no preconditions to the dialogue.

With an estimated total membership of 80,000, the professional associations have led a five-year campaign against the one-person, one-vote system, introduced ahead of the 1993 parliamentary elections, on the grounds that this electoral formula unfairly targets political parties and Islamist candidates.

The syndicates also fiercely protested against the controversial press law, described as restrictive by international human rights watchdogs, and endorsed by Parliament in an extraordinary session this summer.

Officials and union leaders said yesterday's meeting ended with a decision that each association will start separate talks with the most appropriate ministries to solve issues related to the various professions.

The syndicates' presidents also invited Tarawneh to visit their headquarters at the Professional Unions Complex.

Tarawneh optimistic about success of Mideast summit

AMMAN (AFP) — Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh said Sunday he was "optimistic" that progress would be made at the Israeli-Palestinian peace summit at Wye River in the United States.

"Our optimism comes from the need for an agreement by all three sides — the Palestinians, Israelis and Americans," Tarawneh told reporters.

He added that recent visits to Amman by Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu were marked by "signs of flexibility" and a more positive mood.

The prime minister confirmed reports that Arafat had asked Jordan to intervene with the Israeli leadership.

"We contacted them on [Arafat's] request and they asked to come [to Amman]," he said.

Tarawneh said Arafat had appeared "more flexible on security matters," the thorniest issue in negotiations, and

that "there's no doubt that the Palestinians want to conclude an accord."

He did not give details of how Arafat's flexibility would manifest itself but repeated the Palestinian leader's words: "We can guarantee 100 per cent effort but not 100 per cent results."

"[Jordan] is not only passing messages, but is sending very strong and negative warnings" of the risk of an explosion in the region if the peace process doesn't succeed, Tarawneh said.

He also pointed out that Jordan has its own "interests" in negotiations on the final status of Palestinian territories, citing water sharing, the question of refugees, Jordan's role in Jerusalem and the demarcation of borders.

Tarawneh said Jordan was still trying to resolve the issue of Jordanian prisoners in Israel, who number 14, and that Jordan's ambassador to Israel was following this matter.

The prime minister said he

does not understand Syria's "aggressive" stance towards Jordan and spoke out against the increasing number of Jordanians being detained by the Arab neighbour.

"We don't understand the aggressiveness of the Syrian press and officials [towards us] at a time when we have tried very hard to avoid it," Tarawneh said.

Syrian officials, in particular Defence Minister Mustafa Tlass, have recently increased attacks on Jordan.

After mentioning that 125,000 Syrians are working in Jordan, many of them illegally, Tarawneh said "nearly 500 Jordanians have been detained or have disappeared in Syria."

He mentioned in particular a Jordanian banker who disappeared after making a trip across the border to Syria four months ago.

"The number of Jordanians being held in Syria has increased significantly in the last five months," he said.

The prime minister said he



U.S. President Bill Clinton dines with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright at the Wye River Plantation Saturday. Clinton spent the day with Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as the two Middle East leaders attempted to reach a new peace accord (Reuters photo)

Clinton rejoins Mideast summit for crucial phase

'Heated exchange between Arafat, Netanyahu'

WYE MILLS (R) — U.S. President Bill Clinton flew back to an Israeli-Palestinian summit in rural Maryland on Sunday for what could be the decisive phase in attempts to end a stalemate in Middle East peace talks.

"It's an important day... Major decisions will obviously be taken," said an Israeli official.

"There's important work being done," added White House spokesman Joe Lockhart, who also denied reports that more than three days of talks in Maryland had made no progress.

The United States wants Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to wrap up four days of meetings on Sunday but it has not ruled out keeping them at their country retreat into Monday or Tuesday.

"Our goal continues to be to do all the work that needs to be done by today," State Department spokesman James Rubin said.

The aim of the talks, at the Wye Plantation estate 110 kilometres east of Washington, is to reach a deal on the next stages of Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and on Israel's security demands from the Palestinian National Authority.

They also have to sort out a backlog of issues from earlier Israeli-Palestinian agreements, such as a Gaza airport and a safe passage for Palestinians between Gaza and the West Bank.

With big differences on some points, the U.S. mediators may have to accept something less than a comprehensive agreement between Netanyahu and Arafat, Israeli

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat had a heated exchange at their U.S. summit over Israel's demand that wanted Palestinians be extradited, an Israeli television station reported Sunday.

Netanyahu, during a meeting with Arafat at Wye River in Maryland, demanded the extradition of Razi Jabali, the head of the Palestinian police force in the Gaza Strip who is accused by Israel of ordering anti-Israeli attacks, Israel's Channel Two television station said.

In reply, Arafat said: "I'll never be a new Antoine Lahad," a reference to the leader of the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia in southern Lebanon, the television said.

"In that case go call your boss (Hosni) Mubarak (the Egyptian president), ask him to release Azzam Azzam and in exchange I'll give you Jabali," Netanyahu was quoted as saying. The two men then split up.

Azzam Azzam is an Israeli Druze sentenced to 15 years in an Egyptian prison in August 1997 on charges of spying for Israel. The Israeli authorities have repeatedly insisted that Azzam Azzam is innocent.

The television said members of the Israeli delegation taking part in the U.S.-hosted negotiations at Wye River had refused to confirm or deny the report.

delegation sources said.

An Israeli official said Netanyahu was ready to stay on for an agreement.

Palestinian delegates said that from the Palestinian and U.S. points of view an incomplete deal was not good enough.

"The Americans have informed us that there will be no half-packages. The initiative [submitted by the United States] should be accepted as a whole," one of the Palestinians said.

"The Israelis are trying to omit from the agreement any references to unilateral acts, the third phase of redeployment and [Palestinian] prisoners," another Palestinian said.

Unilateral acts is diplomatic

code for steps such as building Jewish settlements in the West Bank. The Palestinians have fought hard for an Israeli commitment to stop them.

The two sides have agreed most details of a second Israeli withdrawal, from 13 per cent of the West Bank, but the gap remains wide on the extent of a third withdrawal.

"We informed the American side that without these issues there will be no agreement. The Americans promised to find compromises on these," the Palestinian negotiator added.

Much depended on Sunday on President Clinton, who took a big risk when he called the Wye Plantation summit.

(Continued on page 12)

Man accused of killing demonstrator during Ma'an riots acquitted

By Rana Hussein

AMMAN — The Criminal Court on Sunday acquitted a 27-year-old man of killing a fellow citizen during pro-Iraq riots in the southern town of Ma'an in February.

Mohammad Awad was accused of shooting and killing Mohammad Abdul-Katib, 23, during the Feb. 20 unrest in which eight police officers were injured.

The court, presided over by Judge Mohammad Ajameh and including Judges Mufleh Mubaidin and Issa Hamdan, said the confession by Mohammad Awad that he committed the

crime was false because "it was extracted under mental duress after he was held for four days before questioning."

The decision by the court generated scenes of jubilation among Awad's family members who wept in joy and hailed the court's decision praising His Majesty King Hussein and wishing him speedy recovery and long life.

"The verdict was fair and I was confident of my innocence," Awad, who spent 102 days in detention, told the Jordan Times.

According to the prosecution charge sheet, the defendant confessed willingly to

the authorities that he started shooting at random in all directions during the unrest next to Ma'an Municipality, the same place Katib was found lying on the ground with a gun shot wound to his back.

But the court said the defendant made several contradictory statements and that he said he made the shooting during the evening hours, while Katib was killed the second day after noon prayers.

As for his confession that he was shooting in all directions at random while standing in the middle of a huge crowd, the court ruled that "it is impossible for the

defendant to shoot in all directions and not hit any of the people standing around him."

"It is evident to our court that the defendant was subjected to mental duress and was threatened by authorities to place his mother and family relatives in detention, and we cannot accept his confession," Judge Ajameh said.

The prosecutor had said that the authorities searched all the houses in Ma'an and found a 7 millimetre gun in the house of the defendant and 13 empty bullet shells, which matched the size of the bullet which penetrated Katib's back and then exited

his chest, the sheet said.

However, Judge Ajameh concluded that many of the prosecution and defence witnesses who appeared in court testified that Awad was not carrying a weapon on the day of the riots.

Awad was also charged with inciting riots and using a firearm, possessing illegal weapon and resisting arrest.

However, the court acquitted him of all these charges "since we decided not to accept his testimony and we did not hear any single witness in court who informed us that he resisted the security forces."

Defence Attorneys Ahmad and Mazin Najdawi praised

the verdict, and described it as a victory for the "truth and justice."

"Today's verdict reflects the ability of our judiciary to obstruct any attempts that could (compromise) the freedom and dignity of the citizens," Ahmad Najdawi said.

The then-government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said in February that Katib was shot in the back by rioters, acting out of rage over Iraq's standoff with the United States.

Witnesses then claimed the shooting occurred during a clash between riot police and a crowd demonstrating in support of Iraq.

Turkey confirms talks with Syria

Meeting aims to defuse tensions over Kurd rebels

ANKARA (Agencies) — High-ranking officials from Turkey and Syria will meet Monday at a secret location to hold security talks aimed at easing tensions between the neighbours, foreign ministry officials confirmed Sunday.

Foreign Minister Ismail Cem said late Saturday that talks would take place but gave no indication as to where and when they would be held.

Turkey accuses Syria of sheltering Kurdish rebels responsible for cross-border attacks and indicated last month it might resort to military action unless Damascus halted alleged support to the insurgents. The threat raised fears of war in the region.

"In the meeting our repre-

sentatives will assess how well Turkey's demands over separatist terrorism are being met," Cem told the Anatolia news agency. "And, if they are being met, [we will assess] if the measures are enough and lasting."

Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlass said Sunday that his government wanted to resolve its differences with Turkey through diplomatic channels, the official Syrian Arab News Agency reported.

"The language of reason and logic should prevail over the language of threat. We should resort to international law," Tlass told a graduation ceremony at the Syrian Air Force Academy.

Follow-up meetings would depend on how convincing

Syrian officials were on promises to clamp down on the activities of the rebel group, said a foreign ministry official speaking on condition of anonymity.

Turkish newspapers gave conflicting reports as to where the talks would be held. Possible venues included the Turkish and Syrian capitals as well as border towns.

There has been no official announcement in Damascus about the meeting.

Tlass renewed Damascus' condemnation of an informal Turkish-Israeli military alliance. He said Israel wanted to use its ties with Ankara to force Syria to capitulate and accept Israel's conditions for peace.

Turkey signed a military

cooperation deal with Israel in 1996 and ties were boosted during a visit to Israel recently by Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz.

"Israel wants to allow its colonial plans in the region to succeed. It wants to undermine the basis of the [Arab-Israeli] peace process," the Syrian minister said.

Syria has held sporadic peace talks with Israel since 1991 but the negotiations broke off in early 1996 without making progress on future ties and the fate of the Golan Heights, captured by Israel in the 1967 war.

Damascus has condemned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for refusing to swap occupied Arab land for peace.



PALESTINIANS PROTEST FOR PRISONERS' RELEASE: Elderly Palestinians, who closed the main road of the Netzeem Jewish settlement during a protest in the Gaza Strip, chant slogans Sunday urging President Yasser Arafat to secure the release of 3,400 Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails (Reuters photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yemen sentences three to death for bombings

SANAA (AP) — Three men were sentenced to death Sunday for a series of bombings in eastern Yemen in 1996 that killed a number of soldiers, a court official said. Baghsh Saeed Al Aghbari, Sa'id Bin Suleiman and Mohammad Saleh Haidarab were found guilty of bombing military posts, forming armed gangs and working for foreign country, the official said on condition of anonymity. The court also sentenced nine other men to prison terms of six to 10 years. One defendant was acquitted. The men were arrested in Nov. 1996 and charged with a series of attacks on military posts during mid-1996 in the eastern province of Mahara. It is not clear how many soldiers died in the attacks.

'Algerian rebels cut nine people's throats'

ALGIERS (R) — Islamist rebels slashed the throats of nine people in an Algerian village overnight, government forces said on Sunday. The security forces said in a statement carried by the official Algerian news agency APS that the massacre took place at Hammam Bouziane village in the province of Constantine, 340 kilometres east of Algiers. "The security forces launched an intensive manhunt operation to track down the perpetrators of this criminal action," the statement said without giving details.

Qadhafi says he wants end to Lockerbie

LONDON (AFP) — Libyan President Muammar Qadhafi said in an interview published Sunday that he wants to draw a line under the international row over the Lockerbie bombing. Speaking to the Sunday Times in Tripoli, Qadhafi said he was anxious to give up confrontation with the West, adding that the United Nations sanctions still in place had a heavy effect on Libya. "We have no interest in confrontation," he said. "Our people want peace. They want to be friends." "We can solve this problem very easily," he said. "The families of the victims [of the Lockerbie bombing] will be satisfied. We have no interest in this tension."

Egyptian cleric puts tiny Koran on market

CAIRO (AFP) — An Egyptian cleric is looking to sell a minute copy of the Koran, smaller than a matchbox, which he inherited from his father. Mohammad Abdul Halim Hammad, a scholar at Cairo's Al Azhar university, told AFP that he found the minute Koran in his father's library after he died four years ago in the village of Kfour Balshai in the Nile Delta, 110 kilometres south of Cairo. The Koran measures 2.5 centimetres by one centimetre by one centimetre.

'Iran villagers set new bounty on Rushdie'

TEHRAN (R) — Residents of a village in northern Iran have set a new bounty, including farmlands, fruit gardens, a house and carpets, on the head of the British author Salman Rushdie, a national newspaper reported on Sunday. "The residents of Kiyapay village... will give 4,500-square-metres of farmland, 1,500-square-metres of fruit gardens, a house and 10 carpets, as a reward for carrying out the execution sentence against the author of the blasphemous book 'The Satanic Verses'," a village official told the headline daily newspaper Kayhan.

Israeli soldiers wound Palestinians in W. Bank

HEBRON (R) — Three Palestinians were wounded when Israeli security forces opened fire on their van at a West Bank military checkpoint on Sunday, Palestinian security sources said.

The army said it was checking the report of the incident near Dharieh. It came as leaders of the United States, Israel and the Palestinians were meeting outside Washington to try to break a 19-month-old peace logjam.

An official at Alia hospital in the nearby West Bank city of Hebron said an ambulance brought three workers to its emergency ward suffering from bullet wounds to the legs and arms.

"Their condition is moderate, not dangerous," the hospital official said.

It was not immediately clear why Israeli soldiers opened fire at the van, which was returning the workers from jobs in the

nearby southern Israeli town of Beersheba. The van had Israeli licence plates.

The driver of the van, Abdullah Gahr Abu Sharkh, told Reuters the Israeli army had not asked him to stop before soldiers opened fire. He said some of the workers in his van did not have permits to work in Israel.

"We saw an army jeep behind us but they didn't ask us to stop. When we entered the Palestinian authority area at the border of Dharieh, they followed us into there and they suddenly opened fire," Abu Sharkh said.

"I stopped when I saw some of the workers were hurt. Soldiers came up to the van and smashed one of the side windows and started to drag workers out of that window... Then they left without taking anybody away or getting us help," he said.

Algeria minister quits, highlights power struggle

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's justice minister, widely seen as a secularist able to deal with moderate Islamists in the divided country, resigned on Sunday, a casualty of what analysts saw as a bitter struggle over Algeria's future path.

Mohammed Adami quit the cabinet on malpractice allegations brought against him by lawyers. Algeria's state-run radio said.

It added: "He stepped down to dedicate his full time to fight in court the allegations involving his person."

The resignation of the 48-year-old former state prosecutor, was the latest act in a struggle which has also seen made public rare allegations of corruption and malpractice involving senior officials ahead of a presidential election due next February.

"It is an interesting indication that

Adami, the brother of Islamist parliamentary member Habib Adami and known as politically close to [President Liamine] Zeroual, was among those singled out by allegations," said one diplomat.

The diplomat said he believed the timing was anything but fortuitous. It came less than seven months before the planned poll to replace Zeroual, a former general, whom diplomats and analysts said earlier had effectively been ousted in a power struggle with other military generals.

Political sources said opposition radical anti-Islamist parties had been pressing Zeroual to sack Adami because of the dominant role the justice ministry has in overseeing elections.

Zeroual announced on Sept. 11 he was cutting short his mandate by 21 months and would not seek reelection.

"Zeroual's decision to announce an early poll without him and now the resignation of Adami shows that radical secularists in the military, in the press and in some political parties are being successful in hitting at their foes," said one political analyst.

On Saturday, government-owned printing presses refused to print four of the country's main independent newspapers, saying they must pay off their printing debts first. On Sunday, three other independent newspapers failed to appear in solidarity.

The analyst said moderate secularists in the government had apparently been behind the decision to demand payment of debts, knowing the newspapers could not pay. They had used this as an oblique way of striking back at the radicals — shutting down main dailies which are widely supportive of radical

secularists.

Critics say Zeroual will leave power having made no real progress through his government — a coalition of moderate Islamists and conservative nationalists — in denting unemployment which is hitting more than two million of Algeria's nearly six million work force. Poverty has long been seen as helping Muslim rebels recruit disillusioned youths.

The critics also say he failed to restore peace and security as he had promised when he won election in November 1995.

Radical Islamists took up arms after the authorities in 1992 cancelled an election dominated by the Islamic Salvation Front.

According to Western estimates over 65,000 people have died.

The political analyst said: "What all

this tells us is that there is a fierce battle going on ahead of the poll. The public can only see the heat of this in flashes like the resignation of a minister and the showdown over the debt arrears opposing the printing presses and dailies."

El Watan, one of the dailies barred by the printing press officials, earlier this month quoted unnamed lawyers casting doubts on Adami's integrity and professional competence.

"Adami is unfit to be a justice minister because of his moral misconduct and mismanagement of the ministry," El Watan's front page story quoted lawyers as saying.

The paper and three other dailies last week also reported allegations made by a former security official of corruption and brutality involving Zeroual's top adviser and preferred successor Mohammad Betchine.

Students return from environment tour of Italy

By Ahmad Khatib

AMMAN — Fifteen Jordanian students recently returned from a 10-day tour of the Veneto region in northeastern Italy to exchange environment protection experience with Italian students.

The delegation, organised by the Friends of Environment Society, consisted of high school students representing several governorates of the Kingdom.

The visit, which was funded by the Italian government, aimed at promoting public awareness among students in order to integrate ecologically sound decision-making into their activities and lives.

The tour included field visits to nature reserves, botanical gardens, a study centre in the Alps, wastewater treatment plants and the city of Venice.

"I learned a lot from the tour,

it was a great experience," Ra'd Bader, a 19-year-old student at Al Thawra Al Arabia Al Kubra (Great Arab Revolt) School, told the Jordan Times.

"The most notable thing in Veneto is how aware people are of the importance of environmental protection."

A U.S. programme, Global Learning and Observing to Benefit the Environment, is being taught under the supervision of the society at 16 Jordanian schools to help teachers and students cooperate to protect nature.

Mais Ja'afrah, a 16-year-old student at Princess Basma High School, said she was nominated for the tour after participating in the society's annual environmental competition, which aims at "finding scientific and feasible solutions for ecological problems."

"I discussed my recent study

oo Jordan's wastewater system with my Italian colleagues, and we exchanged experiences related to the issue," said Ja'afrah.

The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature and the government have introduced environmental subjects into school curricula and set up conservation clubs to help raise public awareness, especially among students.

Ja'afrah and Bader urged students to be more aware of ecological conservation and the government to be more active in issuing laws to protect Jordan's environment, which "has a unique beauty and importance."

Several weeks ago, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Tawfiq Kreishan, in a statement marking International Ozone Day, urged schools to help the government in its efforts to raise

public awareness on protecting the environment.

"The society focuses on students because they are the next generation, and they can make a difference," said the society's Media Committee director and head of the student group, Rana Naber.

According to Naber, the non-governmental society, which was set up in 1995, last year signed an agreement with the Italian Ministry of Health and Environment to allow 15 students to visit Italy for three consecutive years.

The society, which is an independent and voluntary body, was formed to promote public awareness among youth and encourage them to take an active role in conserving the natural environment. It is funded by donations from individuals, national and international organisations and membership fees.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 4773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:10Cartoon — Batman
15:30Drama — The Genie From Down Under
16:00Drama — Neighbours
16:30Doc. — Last Frontiers
17:00French Programme — Thalassa
18:00Drama — Wind at My Back (Ep.10)
19:00Le Journal
19:15French Programme — Science Actualities
19:30News headlines
19:35Comedy — The Parenthood
20:00Doc. — The Internet Cafe
20:30Big Sky (Ep. 15)
21:10Encounter
22:00News in English
22:30Veronica Clare
23:59End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:20Fajr
05:37(Sunrise) Duha
11:21Dhuhr
14:33Asr
17:04Maghreb
18:21Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweith, Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 4632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590
Terra Sancta Church Tel.

4622366
Anglican Church Tel. 4624853/4624811.
St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 4771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 5865897
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 5811295
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932
St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440
Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138

Church of Presentation, Sweith Tel. 5920146
The Uniate Catholic Church Tel. 4624757
The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190
Evangelical Free Church Tel. 4892679
The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052
The Armenian Catholic Church 4771331
The Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 4775261

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Fine weather conditions will prevail during the day becoming relatively cool at night. Clouds will appear at different altitudes and winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman13/26
Aqaba20/31
Deserts11/29
Jordan Valley21/32

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 25 Aqaba 29 Humidity readings: Amman 38 per cent, Aqaba 48 per cent.

Following are the highest temperatures expected today in the following areas:
Ajloun22
Jerash28
Um Qays28
Madaba27
Petra28
Dead Sea34

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Jamal Jbarah5347351

Dr. Arafat Al Ashbah5602507
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim4885446
Dr. Aynan Muhsen4875748
Firas pharmacy5661912
Al Asena pharmacy5347632
Nairoukh pharmacy4623672
Al Salami pharmacy4636730
Yacoub pharmacy4644945
Shmeisani pharmacy4637660
Najib pharmacy5347632
IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Sharf7100888
Al Quds pharmacy(—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Hilal Al Sayyid3852902
Khalifeh pharmacy985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre4637111
Civil Defence Department5661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue4630341
Civil Defence Emergency199
Rescue Police 192, 4621111, 4637777
Fire Brigade4617101
Blood Bank4775121
Highway Police5343402
Traffic Police4896390
Public Security Dept.4630321
Hotel Complaints5661176
Price Complaints4897467
Water & Sewage Complaints4787111
Amman Municipality Complaints4787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance)121
Overseas Calls010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs4623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs5661101
Jordan Televisi4773111
Radio Jordan4774111
Water Authority5680100
J. Electricity Authority5815615
Electric Power Co.4636381
RJ Flight Information44-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport44-53300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery9921199
The Islamic, Abdli5666131/7
Hussein Medical Centre5856836
Luzmila4630195
Khalidi Maternity4642816
Akileh Maternity4642411/2
Jabal Amman Maternity4642362
Malhas, J. Amman4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani5607071
Shmeisani Hospital5669131
University Hospital5353444
Al-Muasher Hospital5667279
Al-Ahli, Abdali5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen4777101/3
Al-Bashir4775111/26
Army, Marka4891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital5602240/50
Amal Hospital4891611/15

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital(09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital(09)990999
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital(02)272275
Ibn 'Al Nafes Hospital(02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (44)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 44 (532700).

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

07:05Sanaa (RJ)
08:30Jeddah (RJ)
08:30Damascus (RJ)
09:00New Delhi (RJ)
09:20Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:55Beirut (RJ)
16:00Cairo (RJ)
16:30London (RJ)
16:40 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:45Kuwait (RJ)
18:00Bangkok (RJ)
18:40Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
21:30Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)
02:55Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

Other Flights

09:30Cairo (MS)
13:10Bahrain (GF)
14:05Vienna (OS)
14:40Doha (QR)
14:45Khartoum (SD)
17:40Beirut (ME)
18:05Frankfurt (LH)
18:45Dubai (EK)
21:15Istanbul (SD)
21:25Tel Aviv (LY)
22:45Athens, Beirut (OA)
00:30 Amsterdam, Damascus (EK)

Royal Wings (RW)

09:20 Aqaba (arriving at QAIA and proceeding to Marka Airport) (RW)
17:00 Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport) (RW)
21:15 Tel Aviv (arriving at QAIA) (RW)
22:25 Aqaba (arriving at Marka

Airport (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:15Beirut (RJ)
10:45Frankfurt, London (RJ)
11:20 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
11:45Kuwait (RJ)
12:15Cairo (RJ)
19:15Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)
20:15Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:40Damascus (RJ)
20:45Abu Dhabi (RJ)
22:45Sanaa (RJ)
23:10Tehran (RJ)

Other Flights

05:15Istanbul (TK)
05:35Larnaca (CY)
06:30Paris (AF)
07:20London (AF)
10:30Cairo (MS)
14:00Bahrain (GF)
14:50Vienna (OS)
15:30Doha (QR)
15:45Istanbul (SD)
19:00Beirut (ME)
19:45Dubai (EK)
22:10Tel Aviv (LY)
22:15Khartoum (SD)
01:30Amsterdam (KL)

Royal Wings (RW)

07:00 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)
08:30 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)
19:45 Tel Aviv (from QAIA) (RW)
20:30Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)

Police search for suspects in double murder

By Rana Hussein

AMMAN — Police are searching for the assailants responsible for the murder of a supermarket owner and his son in the Yadeh area near Jeweideh on Sunday morning, officials said.

Fa'iq Sa'id 46, and his 19-year-old son Khalid were found shot to death in the back room of their supermarket.

One official told the Jordan Times that the motive behind the murders was still being investigated by police, adding that "we are not ruling out any possibilities."

Another official source stated that police were looking for an Arab national who had reportedly lived with the victims and had disappeared.

According to the source, the bodies were transferred to Al Bashir Hospital for an autopsy.

'Victim of honour crime was married'

Meanwhile, investigations into the alleged 'honour' murder of 20-year-old woman by her father on Saturday revealed that she was married, an official said.

Khadijeh A. was reportedly stabbed four times and had her throat slit by her father, who dumped her in a ditch in Zarqa before turning himself in to police.

The victim went missing five months ago, and a week later the authorities found her and referred her for a medical examination, which indicated that she was still a virgin. She was then released into her father's custody.

The official told the Jordan Times on Sunday that after rejoining her family, Khadijeh was forced to be the second wife of a 50-year-old man.

"Last week, Khadijeh returned to her family's house and informed her father that she did not like her husband but someone else," the source said.

Enraged by her remarks, the source maintained, "her father stabbed and killed her to cleanse his family's honour."

Khadijeh was still living when found but was declared dead on arrival at the hospital.



PRINCE RA'D MEETS WITH UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT: His Royal Highness Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the Chief Chamberlain, holds talks with University of Jordan President Walid Ma'ani on means of creating a division to assist students with special needs (University of Jordan photo)

House to ask Syrian council to work for prisoners' release

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament is preparing a message to the speaker of the Syrian People's Council demanding that the council mediate with the concerned authorities to secure the release of Jordanian detainees held in Syria, the chairman of the House's Public Freedoms Committee said Sunday.

Deputy Mohammad Azzaydeh added that the House will ask that the Syrian council guarantee that the detainees, many of whom he said have been imprisoned without being convicted, at least be given fair trials.

Azzaydeh was speaking at a meeting with representatives of a committee grouping relatives of Jordanian detainees in Syria.

The group presented Azzaydeh with a report by the London-based organisation Amnesty International detailing alleged violations of Jordanian prisoners' human rights by the Syrian authorities.

Amnesty last year launched efforts to win the release of Jordanian, Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese prisoners in Syria.

Amnesty officials said the organisation would support efforts by the families of these prisoners to win their release.

Relatives of the Jordanian prisoners last week staged a sit-in near Parliament to press for the release of their kin. The demonstrators held photos of the prisoners, estimated by the committee representing the families at more than 1,000, and carried posters demanding that they be freed.

According to Azzaydeh, the parliamentary committee earlier presented the Foreign Ministry with a copy of the memorandum. The Foreign Ministry in turn submitted it to the Syrian embassy in Amman, the deputy added.

He said Parliament is examining the idea of forming a committee grouping relatives of the detainees, the Foreign Ministry and Parliament to help win the prisoners' release.

On Saturday, Information Minister Nasser Judeh told journalists following a regular Cabinet session that Foreign Minister Abdul Ilah Khateib has conveyed a message to Syria clearly voicing the government's views.

Judeh said the message stated that the Kingdom does not accept the detention and interrogation its citizens because they are Jordanian, not Syrian, citizens.

In an interview with a daily newspaper published in the United Arab Emirates, Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh said that while Jordan hosts nearly 125,000 Syrian workers, Syria is detaining several hundred Jordanians.

Case against nine water officials referred to court

By Rana Hussein

AMMAN — The case against nine government officials facing charges that include negligence and forgery in connection with this summer's water crisis has been referred to the Amman Criminal Court, judicial sources said Sunday.

"Amman Prosecutor Mohammad Harashfeh has referred the file to the court, which is expected to set a date within the next few days to start the trial," the source said.

The nine are Water Authority Secretary General Munther Khleifat, his assistant Sa'd Bakri, the Water Authority's water quality director, Ahmad Oleimat, the authority's central labs director, Hassan Omar, Zai Water Treatment Plant Director Mohammad Abu Taha, a Salt lab health expert, Mohammad Ghannem, and the heads of the operations, maintenance and shifts departments at the plant, Riyad Muhsein, Munaser Zagher and Fateh Rudwan.

They were all ordered detained by Harashfeh last month but were later released on JD1,000 bail each.

The charges against the nine officials will range from misdemeanours to criminal offences, the source said.

Harashfeh launched a probe after receiving a 100-page report prepared by a special investigation commission formed to determine the causes behind the water contamination incident.

In July, residents of west Amman complained of foul-smelling and discoloured water, which was mostly pumped to their tanks from the Zai Water Treatment Plant.

The crisis led to the resignation of former Water Minister Munther Haddadin.

American humanitarian group arrives after mission to Iraq

'Clear evidence of an ongoing public health disaster'

AMMAN (J.T.) — An American humanitarian group yesterday arrived in Amman from their 10th mission to Iraq in two years, reporting the oft-repeated story of other international humanitarian missions and NGOs since the outset of sanctions imposed in 1991.

"We see clear evidence of an ongoing public health disaster," said Kelli Curfield, a Seattle, Washington-based doctor, and member of Voices in the Wilderness, "Medical personnel lack basic medicines, resulting in widespread deaths from previously treatable diseases. It is wrong for nations to engage in policies that specifically deprive civilians access to basic medical care."

The five-member Voices in the Wilderness delegation returned from Baghdad after delivering \$40,000 worth of medicine and medical aid — mostly antibiotics and vitamins — contributed from donors in the United States, and an additional \$500 worth of medical supplies purchased in Jordan through the Franciscan Sisters in Amman.

The leader of this latest mission, Bert Sacks, a Seattle-based computer engineer, conceded that this amount is not likely to go far in a country where 4,500 children under the age of five die of starvation and disease each month and where nearly one million children are at risk of acute malnutrition, both a direct result of economic sanctions, according to UNICEF. Still, he said, he believes the group has impact.

"Maybe, I think, or I hope, we have saved lives — dozens if not hundreds," said Sacks. "That's impact, even if we don't save every life and cure every disease. One life is worth everything."

"We also try to show people that there are Americans who are willing to do as much as go to prison to help relieve their suffering," he said. "We hand out pamphlets everywhere we go — in taxis, buses, hotels and restaurants."

Over the last two years, more than 162 American members of Voices in the Wilderness, a non-profit, non-governmental organisation, have volunteered their time to deliver "illegal" medicine to Iraq in violation of U.S. federal law, which provides for up to 12 years in prison and \$1 million in fines for breaking the sanctions.

They have received media coverage in the Seattle area, and on their last trip to Baghdad, CNN gave the organisation four minutes of airtime. In spite of this, and in spite of reports critical of the sanctions by both "60 Minutes," a programme on the American channel CBS, and the Harvard Study Group, a team of doctors and lawyers that released a publication entitled "UN-Sanctioned Suffering," there seems to be no intention on behalf of the U.S. administration to push for an end to the sanctions and little indication that ordinary Americans are concerned.

This, said Sacks, has to do with the American psyche and the way it is constructed.

"This is a very hard foreign policy issue for [Americans] to deal with," he said. "Americans are raised to believe that there are evil people, not evil actions, and that those who are evil must be controlled, and that's how we justify violence."

[Former U.S. President] George Bush always said that the Iraqi people aren't our enemies," recalled Sacks. "But we have conceded that we used depleted uranium to destroy electric power stations and water infrastructure... we have imposed a limit on the amount of food [that Iraq imports under the oil-for-food deal],

and we see that children are dying. This contradicts all that we have been told, and people are beginning to realise it.

"A lot of people don't want to hear what is ingrained challenged, and other people also have felt powerless to change things," he said.

But he concluded that there are reasons for concerned Americans and suffering Iraqis to be optimistic that sanctions will soon be a thing of the past.

"In February and March, when it was clear that the administration wanted to bomb Iraq and that public and world opinion were against it, and when [U.N. Secretary General] Kofi Annan visited Baghdad and treated Saddam Hussein respectfully, that made it impossible and opened eyes to what was going on," he says.

Another Voices mission will arrive in Amman on Tuesday and depart Wednesday on their 17th mission. Sacks said Voices is also trying to arrange a trip to Baghdad for Physicians for Social Responsibility, a group of American doctors who will host a series of seminars for Iraqi doctors to brief them on developments in medical practices that they otherwise would not have access to under sanctions.

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Jazz duo to showcase 'eclectic' style tonight

By Omar Karmi

AMMAN — Some have called jazz "America's classical music." Others contend that it is the "only indigenous American art-form." No one, however, will dispute that jazz lies at the heart of American culture past and present.

Thus the U.S. Information Service, charged with bringing American culture to countries all over the world, has invited the Jazz Ambassadors to perform in Amman. At a preview Thursday, they dazzled and dazed, challenging even those well versed in the vernacular.

The Ambassadors are a duo composed of wind-instruments and guitar. Led by the charismatic Professor Makanda K. McIntyre, they perform a selection of mostly original tunes that touch on a variety of styles from blues through bebop to Caribbean.

Changing between the saxophone, oboe, flute, bass clarinet and English horn, McIntyre, harking back to his teaching days at the Boston Conservatory of Music, intersperses numbers with explanations of the instruments, showing the audience where the thumb goes, and why this is a single reed or double reed instrument. More than a gig, it becomes a lesson.

But guitarist Steven Genta Smith, an ex-student of McIntyre's and jazz guitar greats such as Barney Kessel, did all his talking with his fingers.

The mixture is interesting, not only because it is unusual. Without the accompaniment of a dedicated rhythm instrument, the audience is forced to find rhythm in the melodies. The tightness of the interplay between the two performers is evi-

denced in the groove that is created, forcing the odd involuntary exclamations by jazz cognoscent amongst the audience.

Rhythm, as McIntyre explained in an interview with the Jordan Times, lies at the heart of jazz, but even more it is evidence of the roots of the music — the African-American community. These roots — like most roots, long and twisted — were planted when Africans were taken from their home continent to work on the plantations and later factories of their white masters in a slave trade that lasted for centuries.

Breaking free and letting loose is what the Jazz Ambassadors will be doing tonight at the Terra Sancta Cultural Centre in Jabal Weibdeh at 8:00 p.m.

Makanda K. McIntyre

Steven Genta Smith

General warns of consequences of peace process collapse

By Alia A. Toukan

AMMAN — The success or failure of the wrangling by Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Premier Benjamin Netanyahu over the proposed 13 per cent withdrawal from the West Bank will impact every country in the region, not least of all Jordan.

If the stalemate in the peace process persists and opposition to Jordan's peace treaty with Israel mounts, the Kingdom could witness acts of sabotage and terrorism, warned a senior army officer, whose name cannot be published under military regulations.

Palestinians and Israelis are currently negotiating, with American prodding, at the remote Wye River conference centre in Maryland to try to break a 20-month-old deadlock.

So far, groups opposed to peace have been "unable to generate enough support" against the 1994 peace treaty with Israel, the general told an international conference, organised by the Jordan Institute of Diplomacy.

However, he said, lack of progress in the peace process in general and on the Palestinian-Israeli track in particular could gradually convert public "indifference" to outright support for these groups.

Jordan's 11 opposition parties and its 80,000-strong professional unions, as well as other civil society institutions, are spearheading a campaign to halt normalisation of ties with Israel.

"[If the stalemate continues] acts of sabotage, assassinations, and border infiltrations can be expected, causing threats to the security of the region," said the general in a candid talk, highly unusual for the country's traditionally guarded military establishment. "Some regional countries would be ready to support such groups with money, weapons and ideology."

"At the regional level, democracy based on public satisfaction is the best barrier against extremism," he said.

Jordan continues to maintain a close watch on groups, inside and outside the Kingdom, believed to be receiving financial and military backing from neighbouring countries, despite the political successes in the seven-year-old Madrid peace process.

But officials say the peace process has not solved the security dilemmas facing the region. The general, speaking at the well-attended seminar, agreed that the peace process has not adequately tackled the security dimension of peace.

Despite the political successes achieved at the early stages of the peace process, it has not found a comprehensive and integral solution to the security problem in the Middle East.

"The peace process in general has offered partial and incomplete solutions to some secondary aspects of the security issue, while substantial security questions have been left without treatment, politically and militarily," he said.

Geo-political, strategic and military imbalances persist in the region which must be addressed, said the general. Even neighbours, such as Jordan and Israel, suffer from significant discrepancies, a major factor contributing to the area's insecurity.

Jordanian officials have consistently called for a "holistic" and comprehensive approach to security that would include political, social and economic factors, in addition to the traditional military interpretation of security.

Due to the Kingdom's scarce resources and small population, Jordan's security policy has been carefully crafted on a strategy of non-alliance, moderation, and cooperation, the general said.

Jordan has military ties with some countries in the region and Western powers. Cooperation with Turkey and Israel has come under heavy fire by the opposition, while Syria has accused Jordan of entering into an alliance with the two countries.

In a region where defence budgets rank among the highest in the world, the general said it is necessary to reduce the pace of the arms race in the area and divert arms expenditures to social and economic development. So far, he added, such efforts have failed.

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Princess Sarvath on Sunday opened a calligraphy exhibition at the Jordan Crafts Centre. The exhibition, entitled "Al Aydi," will run until Oct. 31. The centre was established in 1979.

AMMAN (Petra) — OPEC Fund General Manager Sayyed Adulahi visited the Jubilee School on Saturday and held talks with the president of the school's steering committee, Munther Masri, the school's principal, Fahd Jarwan, and Noor Al Hussein Foundation Executive Director Sima Bahous. The two sides discussed means of enhancing cooperation between the fund and the school.

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh and British Chief of Defence Staff Lieutenant General Charles Guthrie on Sunday discussed military cooperation between Jordan and the U.K. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Abdul Ilah Khateib.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Aviation Authority yesterday signed an agreement with a Swiss firm on the sale of eight fire-fighting engines for use at Queen Alia International Airport and the Aqaba airport. The Swiss government will cover 40 per cent of the JD4.4 million cost of the engines as a grant, while the CAA will pay the rest in the form of a soft loan.

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Water Hani Mulki and his Yemeni counterpart Ali Hamid Sharaf on Sunday signed a memorandum of understanding on providing Yemen with Jordanian expertise in a number of technical fields. Sharaf said he requested Jordanian expertise in modernising his country's water, energy and electricity infrastructure.

what's going on

FILMS

- * "Frenon Carmen" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh at 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
- * "Bounty" at the British Council, Jabal Amman on Tuesday Oct. 20 at 6:00 p.m.

CONCERTS

- * Lute and Guitar Duo by Ra'ed Khoshaba and Razikar Azaad at Darat Al Funn, Jabal Weibdeh on Tuesday Oct. 20 at 7:00 p.m.
- * Jazz Ambassadors Makanda McIntyre (on winds) and Steven Smith (on guitar) in a public concert at the Terra Sancta Hall, Jabal Weibdeh at 8:00 p.m. (Sponsored by the American Center in cooperation with the National Music Conservatory).

LECTURES

- * "The Policies of Economic Reform in Developing Countries — Jordan as an Example" by Dr. Youssef Mansour at Abdul Hameed Shorman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.
- * "The Inscrutable Orientals — The Far East" by Dr. Noha Hommad and Mrs. Anna Obeidat at the British Council, Jabal Amman at 5:00 p.m.

THE PALESTINIAN HERITAGE WEEK

- * Popular poetry (in slang Arabic) at the Professional Associations Complex (6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.).
- * Poetry recital by Youssef Al' Adhri, Kamal Rashid, Aymun Al Umm, Samir Al Qudahi, Ma'mun Jarwan, and Ahmad Matar (who will participate by phone) at the Professional Associations Complex on Tuesday Oct. 20 (6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.).

EXHIBITIONS

- * Display of autumn collection at The Jordan Design and Trade Centre, off Wadi Sagra St. until Oct. 31 (Tel. 5699141/2).
- * Exhibition of works by Palestinian artist Kamal Boullata entitled "Homage to Jerusalem," an exhibition of paintings by late Palestinian artist Zulfia Al Sa'di, an exhibition by Palestinian-American photographer Sa'id Nuseibeh entitled "The Farthest Mosque" at Darat Al Funn, Jabal Weibdeh, until Nov. 12 (Tel. 4643251/2).
- * Goya's Capricorns paintings at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman (Tel. 4610858), until Oct. 23.
- * "Calligraphy on Crafts" at the Jordan Craft Centre (Al Aydi), Jabal Amman (Tel. 4644555), until October 31.
- * Works by Laila Jarwan at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, until Oct. 26.
- * Art of Arab calligraphy by Nasser Mansour at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts (Tel. 4630128), until Oct. 23.

Taiwan's envoy holds landmark meeting with China's president

BEIJING (AFP) — Taiwan envoy Koo Chen-Fu and Chinese President Jiang Zemin Sunday held the highest-level meeting here between the rival sides of the Taiwan Strait since they were divided in 1949.

Both sides hailed the 90-minute meeting, longer than the initial hour which had been planned.

"The meeting proceeded in an atmosphere of a cordial and free conversation," the official Chinese news agency, Xinhua, said.

Jiang hopes "that Mr. Koo would continue to make new and positive contributions to developing the cross-strait relations," it added, while a Taiwan official said the two men held a "very good dialogue."

Koo, chairman of the semi-official Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF), was accompanied by his wife Yen Cho-Yun, SEF deputy chairman and secretary general Shi Hwei-Yow, deputy secretary general Jan Jyh-Hong and Chang Jung-Kung, director of the Mainland Affairs Department of the ruling Kuomintang party.

The mainland, however, declined to accept SEF's request to let Kang Ning-Hsiang, a member of the main opposition Democratic Progressive Party, who sits in the Control Yuan, Taiwan's highest judicial body, join the party.

China, which wants to keep the visit as private and unofficial as possible, had originally wanted it to be a meeting between Jiang and Koo and their wives.

The two men have met before on neutral territory on the sidelines of meetings of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. But Sunday's meeting was the first on mainland soil between a head of state of Communist China and a representative of the rival nationalist government.

Koo told a press conference after his meeting with Jiang that the reason the meeting went on longer than planned was "because we talked mainly about democratisation," describing the talks as "friendly."

"Mr. Jiang has his own views on democratisation: whether it is the world's only political system needs to be studied," he added.

Koo admitted democracy in Taiwan was not without its flaws, but he added: "We want to share our experience of democratisation with our mainland compatriots."

Earlier Sunday, Chinese Vice Premier Qian Qichen told Koo the reunification of Taiwan with mainland China must not be conditional on democratisation on the mainland.

"It is obviously not realistic for some people in Taiwan to preach that 'Taiwan-style democracy' should be the decisive factor of the reunification," the former foreign minister said, according to Xinhua.

"Taiwan now practises capitalist system and after the reunification, Taiwan may retain the capitalist system while the mainland of the motherland practices socialist system," Qian said.

"By reunification, we mean to safeguard the state territorial integrity and sovereignty, not to argue over systems," Qian said.

Taipei, which argues it is the legitimate government of all China, has refused to accept reunification under Communist rule in Beijing. But Beijing, which regards Taiwan as a renegade province, has sought to block Taiwan gaining allies on the diplomatic arena.

"China has intentionally created a lot of obstacles to our relationship with the international community. If they continue to do so, that will create a lot of negative feelings among the Taiwan people," Koo told Qian.

"It will not induce us to have a closer relationship with the mainland," he warned Qian, according to SEF deputy chairman Shi Hwei-Yow who relayed his words.

Beijing sought to counter Koo's criticism saying at a separate news conference that Taiwan had to face reality.

"There are 162 countries with relations with People's Republic of China while only 20 maintain ties with Taiwan. This trend will continue to develop," said Tang Shubei, deputy chairman of China's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS).

"Qian hopes that the Taiwan authorities will regard the mainland objectively and bravely acknowledge the international situation and really consider the interests of the country and people," he added.

The Communist leadership, which wrested back from Taiwan the China seat at the United Nations in 1971, has countered any attempts viewed as promoting independence for the nationalist island.

In 1995 and 1996 Beijing launched wargames in the Taiwan Strait after Taiwan's President Lee Teng-Hui visited the United States on a private visit.

It also angrily suspended the talks launched in 1993 between Koo and ARATS chairman Wang Daohan in Singapore but both men reached consensus in Shanghai Thursday to resume the parleys.

Asked about a possible summit between Jiang and Lee, Koo said "both sides have expressed their intention about a meeting but we have to create conditions."

"The talks can be gradually elevated to a summit of the leaders," Koo said, adding that a meeting between the leaders "must have the support of the people."



Senior Taiwan envoy Koo Chen-Fu (left) greets Chinese President Jiang Zemin in Beijing, before their meeting which is the highest-level contact between the two rivals for almost five decades. The Chinese President praised an agreement reached between Koo, chairman of the semi-official Straits Exchange Foundation, and his mainland counterpart Wang Daohan, under which Beijing and Taipei will reopen a stalled dialogue (Reuters photo)

Deposed Malaysian leader says Mahathir fears people's wrath

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysia's former No. 2 leader says an easing of the conditions of his detention was prompted by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's fear of his countrymen's wrath and pressure from the international community.

In the first statement issued since his arrest nearly a month ago, dismissed Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim protested his treatment in prison, but vowed that neither he nor his reform movement would be beaten into submission.

After he had organised mammoth rallies against the government, Anwar, 51, was taken into custody Sept. 20 under the Internal Security Act, which allows for indefinite imprisonment without trial. After 24 days, he was placed under a less strict form of custody that permits access to his lawyers and family.

"The detention was an attempt to weaken my resolve. They have failed," the dissident said in the statement from his jail cell. "It is time for change."

Anwar has alleged he has suffered from police beatings while awaiting trial on a number of corruption and sex charges.

In the statement, circulated by his wife Azizah Ismail late Saturday, Anwar revived his calls for reform and his attack on the government.

"There must be an end to the abuse of instruments of government; we must rid the country of corruption, cronyism and nepotism," he said.

Sunday evening, about 70 people gathered in downtown Kuala Lumpur and lit lanterns, announcing their solidarity with the ousted leader. The peaceful protest outside the capital's Central Market came one day ahead of a Hindu festival of lights.

Anwar said Mahathir's government had eased conditions of his detention to stem growing public sympathy for Anwar and ease pressure from abroad before Malaysia plays host to a summit meeting next month of leaders from members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

"The plan was to get me out of ISA detention before APEC begins," Anwar said. He also accused Mahathir of using the security act, which was enacted in 1960 to combat militant Communists, as a means of clinging to power.

Malaysia's police chief, meanwhile, said more charges could be brought against Anwar. The Star newspaper reported Sunday.

Rahim Noor was quoted as saying that an investigation into the activities of the dissident politician was continuing.

Anwar's case drew international condemnation after he appeared in court with bruises and a black eye, and alleged he was a victim of police brutality.

Among those sympathetic to him were governments of several countries scheduled to attend the November APEC summit meeting in Kuala Lumpur. The president of the Philippines has not yet confirmed his attendance.

Malaysia says the economic forum should not be politicised.

Within Malaysia, protests have continued over Anwar's Sept. 2 dismissal and his subsequent arrest.

Defying a police order, Anwar's wife, Azizah, joined thousands of protesters demanding Mahathir's resignation Saturday.

It was the first protest in which Azizah has participated since her husband was arrested last month. Police have warned her against getting involved in the reform campaign her husband began.

Hundreds of people rushed to Azizah's car shouting "Reforms! Reforms!" and "Mahathir Resign!" She shook hands with some from inside her car. The couple's 18-year-old daughter, Nurul Izzah, accompanied her.

Later, police beat protesters with rattan canes to get them off the streets. About 140 people were arrested, the Star reported.

Police fired a water cannon to disperse the crowd of nearly 10,000 protesters who had marched to the palace of Malaysia's constitutional monarch, demanding that Anwar be reinstated as the nation's deputy prime minister.

Mahathir, 72, has said he fired Anwar because the former heir-apparent was morally unfit to rule. Anwar has denied the charges, saying they were fabricated to eliminate the challenge he had posed to Mahathir's 17-year rule. His trial begins Nov. 2.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pinochet's diplomatic passport does not guarantee immunity

LONDON (AFP) — Former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet is travelling on a diplomatic passport which, however, "does not guarantee" immunity from prosecution, Home Office minister Alan Michael said Sunday. The Chilean foreign ministry has said the passport gives Pinochet, a retired general and senator-for-life, diplomatic immunity. Pinochet, 82, was arrested Friday at a London clinic, where he was recovering from back surgery, on a Spanish warrant alleging genocide during his 17-year military rule in Chile. Michael told the BBC a diplomatic passport "does not necessarily convey diplomatic immunity." Pinochet appeared to have entered Britain "on a passport which does not require a visa," the junior minister said. "He would have provided evidence of coming for medical treatment, and there's no reason for the immigration authorities to stop him at that stage." Having arrived and gone into hospital, there has been an application from the Spanish authorities, which the police and the magistrates have to act on within 40 days, and the Spanish authorities have to give the details of that application," Michael said. "At that point, the Home Secretary has to decide whether to allow the process to continue," he said, adding: "It's a very clear process and there's been no intervention which has been inappropriate at all." He was apparently referring to suggestions that the government had used its actions on political considerations.

Illegal clinic involved in baby organs trade discovered

TIRANA (AFP) — An illegal clinic allegedly involved in a traffic of baby organs was discovered in the Albanian capital Tirana, the independent daily Koha Jone reported Sunday quoting sources from the state prosecutor's office. Discovery of the clinic was part of an investigation on alleged baby-trafficking from Albania to Italy that had begun earlier this year, centred on a suspected ring of smugglers of babies, whose mothers were told they were stillborn. Fresh allegations of "baby organs trafficking" came the day after the Albanian press reported the end of the state prosecutor's investigation of the illegal traffic of babies to Italy. It remained unclear whether the babies operated on in the illegal clinic survived. Their number was not immediately known. The clinic was administered by Albanian doctors and surgeons who "operated on babies and sent their organs to Italy," reportedly upon the orders of Italian Mafia bosses, the daily said. "Skillful surgeons have carried out many operations on babies and sold their organs in Italy, earning large amounts of money," a senior prosecution official was quoted as saying. Sources said that most of the babies were sent to Italy for illegal adoption, rather than organ-trafficking. It is believed that many women, prompted by their poverty, have sold their babies to the doctors. The "babies scandal," as media named it, became known in April when grave diggers in a public cemetery near Tirana discovered that some coffins, of allegedly buried still-borns, were empty.

Germany deports 75 Kosovo Albanian refugees

MUNICH (R) — German police said Sunday they had deported 75 Kosovo Albanians who had tried to enter the country illegally, crammed so tightly into a truck that some had nearly suffocated. A police spokesman in the southeastern city of Regensburg said the refugees had been sent back to the Czech Republic Saturday evening. The migrants had attracted the attention of border police early Saturday by shouting and hammering in panic on the sides of the small truck at a checkpoint on the Czech border. Nineteen of them — including five pregnant women — had to be taken to hospital suffering from exhaustion and lack of air. They had been packed into a space of just eight square metres. Police said the truck had been virtually airtight and the refugees — one of the largest groups caught trying to enter Germany illegally in recent years — had been discovered just in time. The group was made up of 61 young men, nine women and five children. The driver of the rented truck escaped arrest. But the drivers and a passenger in two accompanying cars, all men, were arrested. One was a German, another a Yugoslav and the third gave no nationality. Many ethnic Albanians fleeing fighting in the Serbian province of Kosovo seek to enter Germany via the Czech Republic. They often fall prey to unscrupulous gangs which charge thousands of dollars to sneak them over the border. Last July, seven Kosovo Albanians were killed and 21 injured when their van, driven by a Czech, crashed while trying to evade German border guards.

Car thief implicates South African police in thefts

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — A convicted car-jacker is accusing police of having helped him steal cars and of taking bribes to foil the justice system, a newspaper reported Sunday. Xolani Miliwana, serving a 125-year sentence after pleading guilty in April to 11 counts of hijacking and to a charge of escaping from prison, said police escorted hijacked cars, arranged for false licence plates and assisted in jailbreaks, the Sunday Times reported. Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi planned to meet soon with Miliwana to hear his accusations, the Johannesburg newspaper said. Miliwana, 25, is the son of police Gen. Niki Miliwana, the assistant commissioner of police in Queenstown, a town in eastern South Africa. The elder Miliwana is encouraging his son to talk. "I have said all I want is for Xolani to reveal all he knows, and at the end of the day the will of God will prevail," Gen. Miliwana was quoted as saying. The car thief has, in an affidavit, accused a police sergeant of taking a 10,000 rands (\$1,800) bribe to let him slip away from prison during an earlier arrest, before the April conviction. Miliwana alleges he also paid 10,000 rands (\$1,800) to another police sergeant to allow Miliwana to steal his criminal files from police headquarters in Johannesburg, the Sunday Times said. Miliwana also alleged other police officers had helped him and his accomplices escape with stolen cars by escorting them in vehicles with flashing police lights. Police spokesman Jabu Dhlamini confirmed that Miliwana's allegations were being investigated.

Car crashes into Berlin's most famous landmark

BERLIN (AP) — It was only for a movie, but the damage to Berlin's historic Brandenburg Gate was real, if minor. A film crew was shooting a scene early Saturday morning where a car was supposed to zip through the city's most famous landmark. The car sprang from a track, however, and rammed one of the gate's pillars, breaking off a roughly 30 by 40 centimetre chunk of stone. Police called the damage light and said the arch's structural integrity was not compromised. The gate was built under 18th-century Prussian rulers in the heart of Berlin, and was part of the Berlin wall until 1989.

East African presidents call for peacekeepers in Congo

NAIROBI (AFP) — The presidents of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda called at a summit here Sunday for an international peacekeeping force in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the "orderly withdrawal" of all foreign troops fighting there.

The force should be a neutral one, serving under the auspices of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations, presidents Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya, Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania and Yoweri Museveni of Uganda said in their final communiqué.

The three heads of state also called for an immediate ceasefire and troop standstill in the DRC's civil war, warning that it threatened the entire region.

"The summit noted with grave concern the escalation of the conflict, which has taken a wider dimension, threatening to engulf the whole region including the

east Africa sub-region," the communiqué said after the three presidents met at State House in Nairobi for about two hours.

The civil war, which broke out when army units mutinied in the east of the DRC on Aug. 2, is "precipitating an influx of refugees into neighbouring countries, the displacement of populations, threats of genocide and decline in trade and investments," the communiqué added.

The summit reaffirmed the unity and territorial integrity of the DRC, and "the need to address the genuine security concerns of the countries neighbouring DRC."

The communiqué called for an immediate cessation of hostilities; immediate negotiation of a ceasefire agreement and a troop standstill; measures to address security concerns of neighbouring countries; security for marginalised

groups; orderly withdrawal of all foreign troops; an all-inclusive political dialogue; deployment of a neutral international peacekeeping force under the auspices of the OAU and the United Nations.

The three presidents also expressed support for efforts to end the war by members of the Southern African Development Community, and mandated their foreign, regional cooperation and defence ministers to follow up Sunday's summit.

Before meeting, the three heads of state laid wreaths at the site of the August 7 bomb blast at the U.S. embassy in Nairobi, which killed 213 people, while a virtually simultaneous blast at the U.S. embassy in Dar es Salaam killed 11 people.

The communiqué expressed their condemnation of terrorism and called for "concerted efforts to combat and eradicate terrorism in all its forms."

Typhoon Zeb weakens into tropical storm, 12 reported dead in Japan

TOKYO (AP) — A typhoon that cut a destructive swath through Asia, killing dozens and severely disrupting transportation, weakened to a tropical storm Sunday as it crossed over the Japanese archipelago and moved into the Sea of Japan.

Typhoon Zeb, which killed at least 74 people in the Philippines and 18 in Taiwan, was downgraded to a tropical storm by Japan's Meteorological

Agency as of 9 a.m. (0000 GMT) as it swirled about 150 kilometres west of Aomori, a city 576 kilometres northeast of Tokyo.

At least 12 people in Japan were killed by landslides and weather-related accidents and one other was reported missing, national police said. More than 1,500 people were forced to flee their homes.

After coming ashore late Saturday in southern Japan, the storm blew into

the Sea of Japan. Sunday afternoon, it was still at sea, off the west coast of the northern main island of Hokkaido.

Rain, however, was heaviest on the island's east coast, where 108 millimetres fell in the 24 hours up to 9 p.m. (1200 GMT) in an area about 800 kilometres northeast of Tokyo.

In southwestern Japan's Okayama prefecture, a 40-year-old woman and her

two school-age sons died after a landslide destroyed their house early Sunday, Kyodo News agency reported.

Another landslide killed an elderly couple and their 41-year-old son late Saturday in neighbouring Hiroshima prefecture.

The storm caused the cancellation of domestic flights, including some departing from Tokyo's Haneda Airport, and disrupted train and ferry ser-

vice all across Japan. Before landing in Japan, Typhoon Zeb devastated parts of the Philippines and Taiwan late last week.

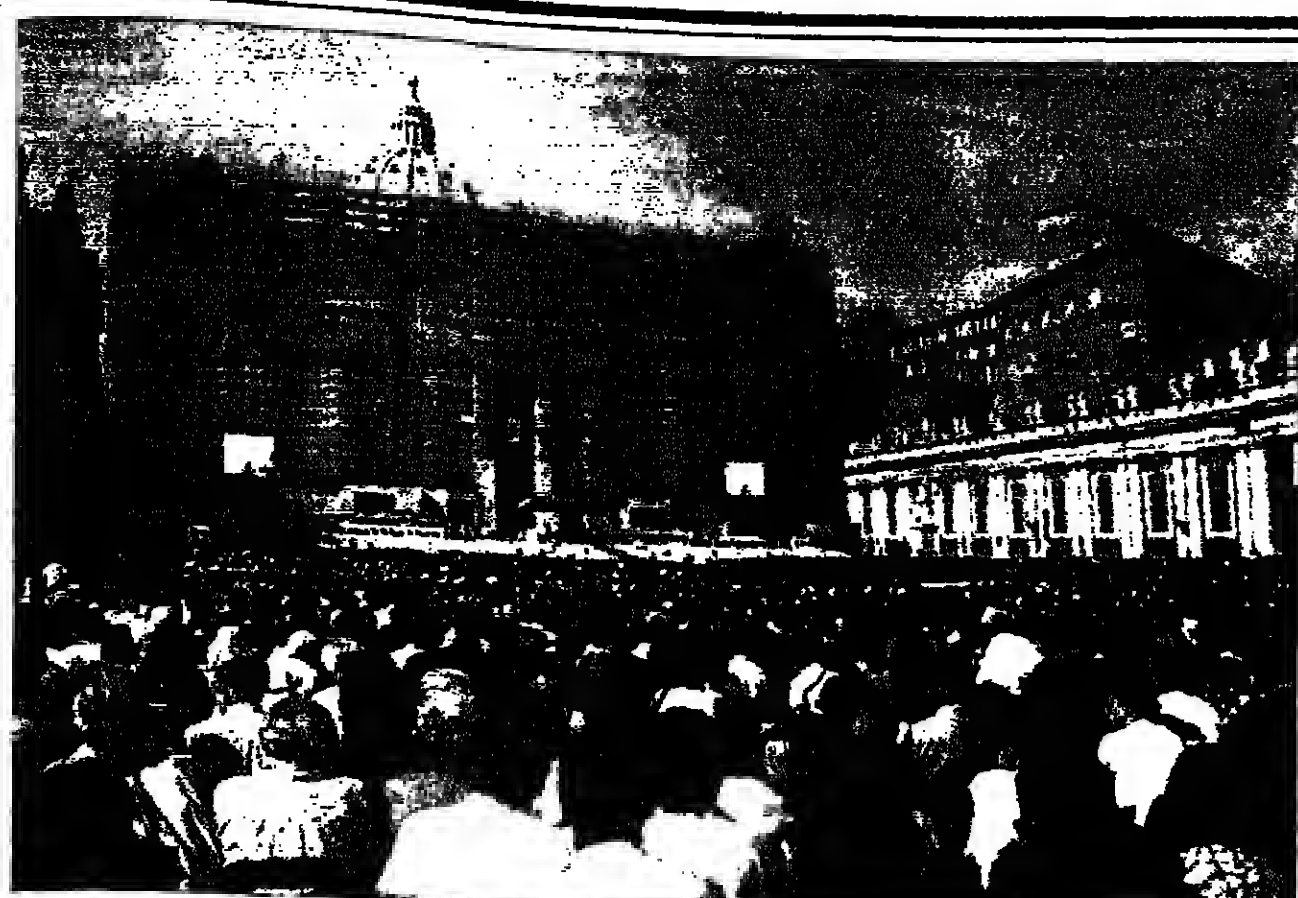
Most of the 74 people killed in the Philippines drowned or were buried in landslides. Ten people were still missing as of late Saturday and the casualty figure was expected to rise as reports come in from isolated villages.

At least 103,000 people

were forced to flee their homes in the Philippines because of flooding. Most have since returned home, but more than 10,000 people remained in 28 government shelters.

In Taiwan, 18 people were dead and up to 19 missing after Zeb roared across the island Friday. At its peak, Zeb reached "super typhoon" status, with sustained winds of 240 kph and gusts measuring 295 kph.

VS IN BRIEF
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police in thefts
crashes into Berlin's
famous landmark



A view of a crowded St. Peter's Square 18 during a ceremony and a mass held by Pope John Paul II which ended four days of celebrations for the 20th anniversary of the Pontiff's election. The Pope ushered in the 21st year of his pontificate humbly asking himself in an unprecedented public way if he had done all possible in the past two decades to serve his church of one million members (Reuters photo)

After the Poles, Pope marks 20 years with Romans

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Wiping away a tear, Pope John Paul II Sunday reflected on his 20 years as Pontiff and wondered aloud how well he has served the church and what he called the world's longing for truth.

The Pontiff looked weary-eyed after he hugged, one by one, Roman schoolchildren who had just waved coloured scarves in a dance of joy for him on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica.

The 40 children were part of a crowd of about 75,000 well-wishers in sunny St. Peter's square for the Pope's mass to mark the anniversary of his Oct. 16, 1978 election to the papacy.

"After 20 years of service on Peter's seat, on this day I cannot help but ask myself some questions," the Pope said.

"Have you carried out all this? Have you been a diligent and vigilant master of the faith of the Church?" And, another question to himself: "Have you tried to satisfy the expectations of the faithful of the church and also the hunger for truth that we feel in the world, outside of the Church?"

His thin, white hair tossed by a warm breeze, the 78-year-old Pope offered no answers. He looked tired but his voice was strong as he thanked people for their "precious" support in these two decades.

"The prayer of the pastor supports his flock. That's for sure. It's also still true, however, that the people's prayer supports the one who has the task of guiding them," said the ailing John Paul, who walks with difficulty and has a constant hand tremor.

The Pope asked for more prayers so that he "may carry out his mission right to the end." Among those who came from the Polish Pope's homeland for the anniversary was Warsaw Cardinal Jozef Glemp, who, in an interview published Sunday in Rome daily La Repubblica, said the Pope had considered resigning in 1981 to help his countrymen struggling against Communism.

Asked if it were true that John Paul let Moscow know that he was ready to quit and return to Poland if Soviet troops invaded his homeland, Glemp replied: "Yes. That was a hypothesis that in several moments had great basis."

Referring to the martial-law crackdown on the Solidarity free trade movement, Glemp added: "The Holy Father in those days was very troubled and worried about the fate of his country. He was ready to do anything, even leaving the leadership of the church in order to be able to defend the freedom of his country."

Added Glemp: "As we all know, naturally, there was no invasion, and, I believe, thanks in part to the determination shown by the Pope." After the Mass, John Paul again turned his thoughts to the value of truth.

"We to humanity which loses the sense of truth, the courage to seek it, the faith to find it," the Pope told the crowd.

Many tourists joining the faithful in Sunday's crowd appeared touched by the Pope's appearance.

"As much as you want to say you're not Catholic, it gives you the chills," said a honeymooner from Boston, Jude Stearns.

Serbs say Kosovo guerrillas fighting back

KOMORANE, Serbia (R) — Serbian police at a road checkpoint in western Kosovo ducked as tracer bullets ripped into the night sky above their heads from two directions Saturday night and Sunday morning.

"This has been going on every night since we (Serbia) agreed to withdraw police and army from most positions we held," a police chief said.

Police and the Yugoslav army say they have been pulling out of western Kosovo's battlefields under an agreement negotiated by President Slobodan Milosevic and U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke.

The ethnic Albanian separatist Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) had previously announced a period of "self restraint" — interpreted as an effective ceasefire — to help the West gain Milosevic's consent.

But, with 2,000 unarmed international monitors due in to ensure Milosevic is keeping his word, fighting has continued.

Three policemen were killed and two wounded late Saturday at Oriate near Malisevo, three km from Komorane and the checkpoint.

Thursday, in the same region, one policeman was killed and three more were wounded.

Each side blames the other. "That's how they (the KLA) keep their own promise. The world is waiting for us to retaliate and will then punish the Serbs," a traffic policeman said at Komorane. "The Albanians can do whatever they want. The world is protecting them." The deal to end eight months of fighting between security forces and the KLA was reached under the threat of NATO air strikes against Yugoslavia, now suspended until Oct. 27.

The Serbians fear that the KLA, which claimed control of up to 50 per cent of Kosovo before Belgrade pushed them back in a summer offensive, will swarm back into the areas vacated by the security forces.

The checkpoint came under fire several times throughout Saturday night.

"During the day it's like real peace. At night, it's hell," said one policeman who was supposed to go home on Monday at the end of his tour of duty.

Monday seemed far away as automatic rifle, sniper and heavy machine gun fire came from the direction of the villages of Kistina Reka and Komorane and from Lapusnik in the Drenica region, forcing policemen to take cover every half hour.

"Fire back only if they come with 50 to 30 metres, not before," the police chief radioed to his outposts. The outposts reported that police had been driven back from some positions.

Other policemen at the checkpoint complained. "If it was up to me I would know how to fire back. I hope our guys are not waiting that long before acting," one said.

The police chief added: "The KLA haven't been this close to this road since before summer. Now, after the so-called ceasefire, they are coming to within 100 metres of here, always at night. They want to regain control of this road. I don't want to think what that would mean."

India, Pakistan vow to reduce danger of N-war

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — The world's newest nuclear powers, India and Pakistan, vowed Sunday to reduce the risk of war and keep up efforts to resolve their festering dispute over Kashmir.

The pledge came in a joint communiqué issued at the end of three days of talks between the two delegations led by Indian Foreign Secretary K. Raghunath and his Pakistani counterpart Shamshad Ahmad.

The heads of both teams stressed the need for the two nations to overcome half a century of mutual hostility marked by three wars, two of them over Kashmir, to open up opportunities for economic and commercial cooperation.

Admitting there had been a lack of any tangible progress on the decades-old dispute, they nonetheless stressed the importance of returning to the negotiating table after more than a year hiatus and highlighted their joint resolve to continue the process.

The next round of talks, specifically on the issues of peace, security, confidence-building measures and Kashmir, will be held in the first half of February, the communiqué said.

Before then the two sides will meet in New Delhi in November to discuss other issues such as military confidence-building, the Siachen Glacier, India's Wullar Barrage project in Kashmir and the territorial problem of Sir Creek.

A report from New Delhi said commanders of the two armies Saturday agreed not to trade fire in Kashmir's Jammu region to defuse border tensions.

India's Border Security Force and Pakistan's paramilitary Rangers agreed not to trade cross-border fire in Kashmir's Jammu region to defuse tensions, an Indian spokesman said in Kashmir.

The deliberations in Islamabad were guided by "the shared belief that an environment of durable peace and security was in the supreme interest of both countries and the region as a whole," the communiqué said.

"Both sides underscored their commitment to reduce the risk of a conflict by building mutual confidence in the nuclear and conventional fields," it said.

The two sides reiterated their respective positions on Kashmir on an exclusive session on the issue Saturday.

But they recognised that "peaceful settlement of all outstanding issues, including Jammu and Kashmir, is essential" for regional peace and security, the communiqué added.

Pakistan has called for a U.N.-sponsored referendum in Kashmir, but India says its sovereignty over the Himalayan state is incontestable.

The dialogue, suspended last year, was resumed Friday after India and Pakistan carried out nuclear weapons tests in May which heightened security fears in the region and around the world.

"There is a clear perception in India that a stable and prosperous Pakistan is in our interest," Raghunath said, responding to questions after the formal statement was read out by joint spokesman Tariq Altar from Pakistan.

Raghunath emphasised the two countries would have to resolve problems bilaterally without third-party involvement but added that "we are open to advice and suggestions."

He said the two sides exchanged proposals on Kashmir, confidence-building measures, avoiding nuclear conflict, developing communication between civil and military authorities and exchange of data and information.

The dialogue process has been initiated to move step-by-step toward improving bilateral relations in a "realistic and pragmatic" manner, he said.

"It is important that we address all issues including nuclear and conventional security."

Ahmad said the whole world was watching for a resolution of the Kashmir dispute following the nuclear tests.

"The world expects us to resolve the problems and avoid a conflict which will have incalculable consequences."

The Pakistani foreign secretary said: "We must strike at the root of all problems."

"Simmering embers always burst into flames. Had there been no Kashmir dispute South Asia would not have been nuclearised," he said.

Italy gropes its way towards new government

ROME (R) — Italian politicians haggled and horse-traded Sunday as ex-Communist Massimo D'Alema groped his way towards forming the 56th government since World War II.

Leaders of three small centrist Catholic parties, including acting Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini and former President Francesco Cossiga, met to discuss cooperation within government.

"It seems absolutely fundamental to me that the components of the centre in this majority work in strict harmony," Dini told reporters after the meeting.

D'Alema, leader of the Democrats of the Left (DS) — social democratic heir to the once-mighty Italian Communist Party — was mandated Friday to try to form a new government after acting Prime Minister Romano Prodi's administration fell and Prodi failed to find support for a new one.

D'Alema held a first round of talks with political leaders Saturday and said the conditions for progress were there.

But he warned: "The framework is complex because it's clear we are dealing with political forces that have had different experiences and will have differing ideas about the evolution of the political system and Italian democracy." D'Alema's dilemma is a thorny one.

His supporters, the centre-left Olive Tree bloc and moderate Marxist party Italian Communists, do not have enough deputies to form a lower house majority. The added support of Cossiga's centrist UDR — formed largely of defectors from the opposition centre-right — would swing the sums in his favour.

But how he will square the circle, persuading Marxists to get into bed with former rightwingers, is still unclear.

If D'Alema succeeds where Prodi failed, he will become the first former card-carrying Communist to lead Italy, though he is nowadays more in step with leaders like German Chancellor-elect Gerhard Schroeder or British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Italy's influential Catholic Church appeared less than delighted at the prospect of a D'Alema premiership, with Vatican newspaper Osservatore Romano stressing his hard-left past.

"Fifty years after the momentous victory of freedom and democracy over Communism, the head of state has entrusted the task of forming a government to a man from the apparatus of the ex-Italian Communist Party, a former secretary of the young Communists' federation..." Osservatore Romano wrote Sunday.

The archbishop of Foggia, Giuseppe Casale, concurred. "I feel I must agree with the opposition that UDR's membership of this new majority is a genuine betrayal." The Church criticisms sparked a storm.

"We thought Italy had the right to consider itself an autonomous, sovereign state... We were deluding ourselves," said left-leaning daily la Repubblica in a front-page editorial.

"Osservatore Romano's 'No' has woken us from a dream. We are regressing to a past of crucifixes, threats, excommunications, exorcisms against the Satan at the gates," D'Alema brushed off the Osservatore comments, saying it was not his job to argue with the newspaper of a "friendly state".

Perhaps more worrying for D'Alema, however, was a squabble over Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the widely respected acting treasury minister whom Italian media said was considering refusing to stay in his post under the next government.

Ciampi was said to have felt insulted by Cossiga's recent comments that he was an enemy of the Christian Democrats (DC) who ruled Italy for half a century before drowning in a sea of corruption scandals. Cossiga, who was a DC member, apologised Sunday, saying he had not meant to offend Ciampi.

The right, meantime, continued to insist that Democrat of the Left D'Alema was behaving undemocratically in forming a government supported by UDR defectors from opposition ranks.

"We are faced with a political immorality that is without precedent," thundered far-right leader Gianfranco Fini.

Taliban retake town from rival Afghan commander Masood

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — The Taliban militia Sunday recaptured Taloqan, a strategic town in northern Afghanistan after fierce fighting with forces loyal to opposition commander Ahmad Shah Masood, a militia spokesman was quoted as saying.

"Taliban fighters entered Taloqan after a fierce day-long fighting," the hardline militia's spokesman Abdul Ahad Jehangirwal told the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP).

The Taliban are to complete control of Taloqan and its airport," Jehangirwal said, adding further details of the offensive were awaited.

There was no immediate independent confirmation of the report.

The city has changed hands in the recent past. Masood loyalists were driven out of there during the Taliban's summer offensive in northern Afghanistan.

But Saturday they flushed out Taliban troops from the strategic town located near the Tajikistan border.

AIP said the Taliban launched the offensive around 11:00 a.m. (0600 GMT). Masood forces put up "tough resistance" but were compelled to flee after seven hours of heavy fighting.

Casualties were heavy. AIP said adding more than 50 soldiers were killed on both sides.

The Taliban launched the offensive with some 600 fresh fighters despatched soon after rival troops entered the town on Saturday, it said.

Taloqan, the capital of northeastern Takhar province, has been a traditional base for Masood. It is considered vital for his forces as it controls their supply artery to Masood's bastion of the Panjsher valley and the areas north of Kabul.

Earlier opposition sources said Taliban fighters launched a coordinated attack late Saturday from Ghorband and Nejrab districts against Masood's troops in northern Parwan and Kapisa provinces.

"The attack through Ghorband has been rebuffed. But heavy fighting is still going on in Nejrab," opposition spokesman Mohammad Aref said.

Masood is the last obstacle for the Taliban's ambitions to take the whole of Afghanistan, some 90 per cent of which is already controlled by the religious militia.

The Taliban overran northern and central Afghanistan in the summer routing the forces of ex-Communist general Abdul Rashid Dostam and Shiite Muslim leader Abdul Karim Khalil.

Volunteers use trucks to save whales

HOBART, Australia (AP) — Volunteers use trucks to save six stricken whales Sunday, while dozens more died after becoming stuck in shallow waters off Australia's southern island of Tasmania.

A pod of about 100 pilot whales hit trouble near Blackman's Bay and 24 died. Later, 60 whales beached farther north at Orford, and most perished.

Those saved by the trucks were carried 45 minutes by road to be released into the open sea.

The drama began Saturday morning when 56 whales, the biggest nearly 7 metres long, beached themselves at Marion Bay.

Aside from 21 that died, rescuers managed to get the rest out to sea to join the large pod, using boats to turn back any that tried to return to shore.

Rangers also took a whale calf into deeper water and turned its head toward shore in the hope that its distress calls would attract others. Four adults came.

"I've never seen this technique used before but it got at least four back out," Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service director Max Kitchell said. "We learn something each time with these strandings." But instead of heading to the safety of open sea, the reunited pod turned toward the narrow entrance of Blackman's Bay Saturday night.

Despite efforts to head them off, about 50 became trapped in shallow water, wallowing helplessly.

Nine became stranded on a sand bar where three died, and the rest were moved back to sea at first light Sunday.

Rangers decided to truck them to Eaglehawk Neck, where they could be released into open sea. Calves were lifted on to trailers and driven off.

Hydraulic lifts on the back of flatbed trucks had to be used for the adults, which were lowered on to foam mattresses, covered with sacks and strapped down.

During the drive, five volunteers rode precariously on the truck's back, continually sluicing the whales down with buckets of water.

At the end of one drive, one whale heaved and almost went over the side of the truck on to a concrete launching ramp.

Pat Deprez, one of the volunteers who stayed with a whale throughout its truck rescue, said it was agitated when he first reached it in the water at Blackman's Bay.

But it calmed down as it was moved closer to other whales and they could talk to each other.

"If it got a bit distressed (on the truck), we'd give it a pat and that seemed to help it," Deprez said.

A group of surfers also helped with a couple of the stronger whales.

Andrew Campbell twice pushed, cajoled and swam with a whale until it was back in open water.

"It was very hard at first but once the whale got into deeper water it quickly rejuvenated and then I hung on and went for the ride," he said.

"If it went off course, I'd give it a push. It seemed to know what I was trying to do. Anyway it always responded." Campbell stayed with each whale until it was well beyond the mouth of the bay.

Then came the news from Orford, 20 kilometres to the north, that more than 60 more whales had beached themselves there and most of them had died.

"Then just as we think we've got it under control, we get a kick in the guts," Kitchell said.

He didn't know if the 60 that beached there were part of the same pod.

He said all but about 10 were dead by the time rangers reached them, which suggested they had been ashore for some time before being found.

Blair to meet parties on N. Irish arms row

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Tony Blair will hold separate talks Monday with Northern Ireland's First Minister, David Trimble, and Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness in a bid to end a row over disarmament, a government spokesman said.

He said the government believes the Nobel Peace Prize, which was awarded last Friday jointly to Trimble and leader of the moderate national SDLP leader John Hume, would act as a spur to make more progress on the problem.

Pro-British unionists want Irish republican guerrillas to start handing over their weapons before their Sinn Féin allies are allowed into Northern Ireland's new government.

But Sinn Féin has said it is not within its power to force the Irish Republican Army to give up its weapons at this stage.

Under the terms of the Good Friday political settlement, guerrilla groups have two years to hand over all their weapons, but no start date is specified.

The row has cost a dark shadow over the peace process which Blair wants resolved as soon as possible.

"The Prime Minister will be pressing the issue and trying to crack it," a Downing Street spokesman said.

Sunday, Trimble said that peace was coming too slowly to Northern Ireland.

Writing in Sunday's Observer newspaper, Trimble blamed pro-British unionists obsessed with "sectarian dog-fights" as well as republican guerrillas who refuse to lay down their arms for the slow rate of progress.

"Northern Ireland is moving slowly towards peace. Too slowly," Trimble, who is also leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, Northern Ireland's largest political grouping, wrote.

He said the Nobel Peace Prize was no guarantee of peace when the IRA and other guerrilla groups were retaining their arms and explosives despite the appeals of "every consistently democratic player on the island of Ireland."

"Those who have perpetrated violence cling on to their weapons of war tenaciously in the face of that consistent pressure," Trimble wrote.

"It is the duty of democrats not to accept the 'reality' of their refusal to break irrevocably with the past, but to articulate again and again the clear popular will."

Jordan Times

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Justice overrides diplomacy

THE ARREST of former Chilean President Augusto Pinochet in London by British police acting under a Spanish extradition request puts the issue of diplomatic immunity in the spotlight. Specifically, the question is whether such immunity should protect people charged with crimes against humanity from prosecution or, at the very least, an accounting of their actions. While Britain has said the arrest falls within the framework of the law, the Chilean government and army have rejected the detention, citing the "diplomatic" passport that Pinochet was carrying while receiving medical treatment.

After coming to power in the violent 1973 coup that left Chile's democratically-elected President Salvador Allende dead, thousands of people were arrested, tortured, murdered, executed or "disappeared." Many more thousands of dissident Chileans were forced into exile for fear for their lives. When he finally stepped down in 1990, he took the "senator-for-life" seat he created for himself under the 1980 constitution and benefited from other laws, including an amnesty covering crimes before 1978, by which time the most public of these brutalities were completed.

Several problems immediately arise with Pinochet's status as a "diplomat." First, is he even entitled to diplomatic immunity? Military coups are not generally recognised by the international community as legitimate. The constitution under which he received this immunity was drafted under his regime. Can one person confer upon himself diplomatic immunity?

Second, even if it is granted that Pinochet can enjoy this privilege, there is a clear contradiction between laws exempting war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide from immunity, including the protection accorded by statutes of limitation on their commission, and the liberal interpretation of diplomatic privileges. Such categories of crimes cannot and should not be protected by any legal regime, and when in doubt or when there is a conflict of laws, the overriding interest of prosecuting and punishing people perpetrating such heinous crimes should prevail over diplomatic considerations.

Finally, Pinochet was not even on a diplomatic mission or accredited to Britain at the time of his arrest.

Affording diplomatic protection to people accused of grave breaches of human rights would make a mockery of international efforts to eradicate or combat such violations. If a diplomatic passport were all that was required, no human rights violators would ever face justice. Diplomatic immunity was never intended for these purposes, and if the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic and Consular Privileges and Immunities lead to such an unfair and absurd result, it is then overdue for a review. Suspected criminals should not be accorded protection no matter what passports they carry. Pinochet's arrest was the first step. Action must now be taken to ensure that he answers for the crimes that were committed under his regime.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Fahed Faneh discussed the appointment of Ariel Sharon, the leading hawk in Netanyahu's cabinet, as minister of foreign affairs. Faneh was undecided as to whether to be optimistic or pessimistic on the sudden appointment of the hard-line leader. A quick review of Sharon's history indicates that the possibility of prodding the Israelis and the Palestinians to speed up the lagging peace talks on the long overdue peace process will be lessened. Sharon is an extremist right-wing leader, who is responsible for the Sabra and Shatilla massacres which took place in early eighties, but according to Faneh, this could be the key to selling the over-all deal to the far-right nationalists who dominate the fragile ruling coalition. Sharon is similar to the former Israeli Prime Minister Begin who managed to convince the Israelis to withdraw from Sinai, said Faneh.

Al Dinstour's Khairi Mansur criticised President Bill Clinton for issuing a warning to the Palestinians to make progress in the long-awaited talks with Israel. The United States has threatened to quit sponsoring the peace march if the talks currently held in the U.S. collapse. Mansur said the Palestine National Authority will be the real loser if talks collapse, because it is the weaker party. He said it is unfair that the world's major power exerts pressure on the Palestinians, while it is Israel hindering the talks. According to Mansur, Israel will benefit if the process dies, because their situation will stay as it is and PNA's situation will worsen. Mansur claimed Israel believes in the concept of security for land, not peace and it would never allow the emergence of a Palestinian state.

Economic Review

Dr. Yusuf Mansur

The Four Ps: The tourism alphabet

A FORTNIGHT ago, the minister of tourism gave an excellent presentation at the Orthodox Club in which he described the development strategy of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities as to include the ABCs (Advancement through Better Communications — if I recall correctly) and the "Three Ps (product, people and promotion) of tourism." Being a fan of the Ministry of Tourism, and committed to the belief that internal tourism must be encouraged, I would like to introduce yet another set of letters, the Four Ps (product, price, place, promotion) of advertising, in relation to tourism in Jordan.

Usually, to assist with marketing planning and advertising of a product, the message is communicated through the delivery of the widely known Four Ps, which are:

- **Product:** Refers to the physical attributes of the product that is being offered. In the case of tourism, the message sent to tourists about Jordan should highlight the splendour and magnificence of Jordanian tourist sites and play up the distinctive characteristics they possess. This can be done first through vivid images of such sites and/or descriptions that appeal to the imagination and desires of the tourist.

- **Price:** The price or cost of a visit to Jordan encompasses not only the cost of the trip, but also the quality of the experience. A low-price tour may also generate, albeit incorrectly sometimes, low quality images; the reverse is also true. However, charging exorbitant prices, possibly due to inherent inefficiencies and non-competitive behaviour, would lead to short-term bonanzas and long-term disasters; repeat business becomes forfeit and low-income tourism is lost. Word of mouth is the cheapest, yet most difficult media campaign to launch — bad experiences with a tour would lead to no tours. Therefore, the price of

the tour must be properly focused on whomever the promotional campaign is targeting. In the case of Jordan, the price would emerge from the cooperation or lack of it among the Ministry of Tourism, Royal Jordanian and other carriers, tour operators, travel agents, tour guides, restaurants, hotels, tour book and map publishers, and site- and visa-fee collectors. Inefficiencies in the chain of production lead to price distortions and negatively impact the image that Jordan is advertising. In the case of Jordan and Syria, inefficiencies created by alleged monopolistic practices and bureaucratic red tape have led to the overpricing of tours in countries that are basically inexpensive.

- **Place:** Place involves the distribution channels of a product. How the product is distributed speaks volumes about the product itself. Further, where and how a product is presented reveals the target group of the marketer. To ensure that Jordanians do not think of Jordan as a place where they drive the children to a grassy knoll on the side of Airport Highway to grill some meat and watch the children play for a couple of hours and leave their garbage and waste behind thus taxing the economy instead of contributing to it, the second and third "Ps," price and place, need to address the Jordanian segment.

The local Jordanian tourist is a market segment that needs to be developed. Local tourists would typically use their own vehicles to visit tourist sites and would require a decent, relaxing, short-term, non-pricey experience. This tourist segment foregoes travel agents and tour operators; they would travel in rented or their own vehicles. Many Jordanians would like to travel to sites other than Petra and Jerash — Jordan has hundreds of thousands of other sites to choose from, each with a unique

and positive allure. The span of the trip would be a day or a day and a half — most of the work force enjoys, or does not enjoy, a one-day weekend. Therefore, there should be no wasted time on the road in search of sites; after all, they have no tour guides or experienced bus drivers to guide them, they are on their own. They should be provided with detailed maps such as those published in this newspaper complement of archaeology buffs, which show in a detailed manner how to get by car to these rather unknown sites. Or better yet, maps should be published on the many Web sites of the different ministries and organisations at no cost and thus made available to most Jordanians — this is only one among many other costless suggestions that would encourage the creation of inter-Jordan tours. This is also important to many of the foreign backpackers and one-day travellers who want to come to Jordan but are afraid of being lost in a no-map, no-road sign dilemma.

• **Promotion:** Promotion includes not only advertising but also the verbal, auditory and visual information communicated about the product by its marketers. In the case of Jordanian tourism, brochures, press releases, maps, sales pitches at conferences, and statements on air tickets, soaps, jingles, etc. are all components of the advertisers' tool kit.

The timely implementation of the Four Ps (Define, Distinguish, Deepen, Defend) of marketing, Four Ps (Product, Price, Place, Promotion) of advertising and the Three Ps (Product, People, Promotion) and ABC (Advancement through Better Communication) of the Ministry of Tourism will significantly contribute to the creation of tourism, Jordan's most important industry. Let's not wait too long.

AN ATTEMPT IS MADE TO RE-ACTIVATE THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS...



The appointment of Sharon: Things to remember

By Pascal B. Karmy

WHAT IS the purpose behind the appointment of Ariel Sharon as the head of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is known that he fiercely opposes the American initiative of a 13 per cent withdrawal of the Israeli army from the West Bank. Does his acceptance of the appointment mean that he has now gone back on his suggestion of a nine per cent withdrawal as proposed by him lately to some top Palestinian leaders, and that no further withdrawals will be effected? Accordingly shall there be no third stage of withdrawal as envisaged by the accords made between Israel and Palestinians?

Internally, that is to say as regards Israeli internal affairs, it may be that Netanyahu brought Sharon to the cabinet as minister of foreign affairs in order to exclude him from competing with him for the election as the head of the Likud Party and subsequently his candidacy for the prime ministership. There is no doubt, however, that Sharon's appointment will have far-reaching effects on the peace process not only between Israel and the Palestinians, but also on the negotiations between Israel and Syria if they ever take place. Sharon is known to be an extremist right winger, that is to say the "hawk" of the Likud Party, and thus in the opinion of some writers, no goodwill can come out of his appointment; on the contrary he will be a stumbling block in the way of peace and may cause the collapse of the peace process. In my humble opinion, his appointment will be used by Netanyahu as a means to resist further withdrawals exceeding 10 + 3 per cent. However, one should hope that the Wye Plantation summit will ultimately bring peace to the area and not the collapse of peace.

Having said the above let us review very cursorily some of Sharon's actions towards the Palestinians. There are two dramatic events in which Sharon played an active role, namely the Qibya killing in 1953 and the Sabra and Shatilla massacres in 1982.

In 1953 Sharon was appointed as the commander of Unit 101 in the Israeli army. The killing of Qibya inhabitants on October 14, 1953 was a reprisal for the killing by a grenade of a mother and two children near the settlement of Yahuda. The Mixed Armistice Commission which was part of the U.N. peacekeeping machinery had roundly condemned the killing and even the Jordanian delegates voted in favour of the resolution and took it upon themselves to prevent such killing in the future. After the government of Jordan asked for bloodhounds to track down the Jordanian criminals (the West Bank was then a part of Jordan), it was nevertheless planned by the Israelis to massacre at night the sleeping inhabitants of Qibya. Sharon led the Unit 101 which dynamited dozens of houses.

The United Nations Military Observers who reached the village two hours after the Israeli commandos had left described the situation as follows: "Bullet-riddled bodies near the doorways and

multiple hits on the doors of the demolished houses indicated that the inhabitants had been forced to remain inside until their homes were blown up over them." Witnesses were uniform in describing their experience as a night of horror. Sixty-six men, women and children were indiscriminately killed in this horrible operation under the command of Ariel Sharon.

The other feat perpetrated by Sharon is the invasion of Lebanon and the subsequent massacre of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatilla camps in Beirut. Israel's war of 1982 in Lebanon was not waged for security, nor in self-defence, nor in retaliation: it was waged in execution of Israeli policy to destroy the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and to annihilate the Palestinian national movement. The war was in fact planned several months before it was launched. On October 14, 1982 Ariel Sharon who was then Israel's defence minister and architect of the war told the "Jerusalem Post" that he had been planning the Lebanon operations since he took office in 1981. In his book "The Longest War," Jacobo Timerman, a Jewish writer, described the war of 1982 as "one whose preparation was known to everybody, whose necessity was never demonstrated and whose reasons were fabricated."

One of the objectives of the Lebanese war was to expel the PLO, its armed forces and the Palestinian refugees from Lebanon. The Israeli army had succeeded except that it could not move the Palestinian refugees from Lebanon. Instead it encouraged Lebanese Falangists to massacre thousands of them in the Sabra and Shatilla camps in Beirut. Suffice it to mention here that after an agreement had been reached between Israeli military chiefs and their Lebanese allies, three units of 50 Lebanese militiamen entered the camps of Sabra and Shatilla and killed defenceless old men, women and children for 40 hours aided at night by flares fired by the Israeli army. Morris Draper, the U.S. envoy to Lebanon, addressed Defence Minister Sharon as follows: "You must stop the massacre. They are obscene, I have an officer in the camp counting the bodies. You ought to be ashamed. The situation is rotten and terrible. They are killing children. You are in absolute control of the area, and therefore, responsible for that area."

The Israeli Commission of Inquiry on the massacres held that Israel is indirectly responsible for the killing, that Sharon as defence minister was responsible in deciding to have the Lebanese Falangists enter the camps and in disregarding the danger of acts of vengeance by them against the refugees. As a result Sharon was dismissed from his post. Of course there were other Israelis who were responsible for the killing like Raphael Eitan, the Israeli chief of staff and the direct commander of the Israeli army units surrounding the camps of Sabra and Shatilla.

The writer was an advocate in Palestine in 1944 and, for many years, legal officer at UNRWA headquarters in Beirut and Vienna.

To end famines, try democracy and a free press

Amartya Sen has been awarded the 1998 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Science.

THE AVOIDANCE of such economic disasters as famines is made much easier by the existence, and the exercise, of various liberties and political rights, including the liberty of free expression.

One of the remarkable facts in the terrible history of famine is that no substantial famine has ever occurred in a country with a democratic form of government and a relatively free press.

They have occurred in ancient kingdoms and in contemporary authoritarian societies, in primitive tribal communities and in modern technocratic dictatorships, in colonial economies governed by imperialists from the north and in newly independent countries of the south run by despotic national leaders or by intolerant single parties.

But famines have never afflicted any country that is independent, that goes to elections regularly, that has opposition parties to voice criticisms, that permits newspapers to report freely and to question the wisdom of government policies without extensive censorship.

The link between political rights and economic needs can be illustrated in the specific context of famine prevention by considering the massive Chinese famines of 1958-1961.

Even before the recent economic reforms, China had been much more successful than India in economic development. The average life expectancy, for example, rose in China much more than it did in India, and well before the reforms of 1979 it had already reached something like the high figure — nearly 70 years at birth — that is quoted now.

And yet it is now estimated

that the Chinese famines from 1958 to 1961 killed close to 30 million people, which is 10 times more than even the gigantic 1943 famine in British India.

The so-called Great Leap Forward, initiated in the late 1950s, was a massive failure, but the Chinese government refused to admit it and continued dogmatically to pursue

much the same disastrous policies for three more years. It is hard to imagine that this could have happened in a country that goes to the polls regularly and has an independent press. During that terrible calamity, the government faced no pressure from newspapers, which were controlled, or from opposition parties, which were not allowed to exist.

The lack of a free system of news distribution even misled the government itself. It believed its own propaganda and the rosy reports of local party officials competing for credit in Beijing. Indeed, there is evidence that just as the famine was moving towards its peak, the Chinese authorities mistakenly believed they had 100 million more metric tonnes of grain than they actually did.

These issues remain relevant in China today. Since the economic reforms of 1979, official Chinese policies have been based on the acknowledgement of the importance of economic incentives without a similar acknowledgement of the importance of political incentives. When things go reasonably well, the disciplinary role of democracy might not be greatly missed; but when big policy mistakes are made, this lacuna can be quite disastrous.

The significance of the democracy movements in contemporary China has to be judged to this light.

— International Herald Tribune

Features

Karak Plateau Project launches multi-disciplinary study of changing nature of past and present

(This is the first of two articles on the Karak Resources Project; today's reviews the overall goals and initial survey results, while next week's article looks at the excavations at the major Iron Age town of Madyat and the study of ancient water storage systems.)

AN EXCITING new multi-disciplinary, but archaeology-centred, research project launched on the Karak Plateau in 1995 has started to generate significant new information about both the ancient history and current trends in that region — and the news in both cases is rather striking. From the ancient world, the Karak Resources Project (KRP) directed by Dr. Gerald Mattingly of Johnson Bible College in Knoxville, Tennessee (USA) has revealed new evidence of how ancient inhabitants of this fertile plateau exploited its indigenous resources and also traded with other peoples in the region. From the contemporary world, the project has produced frightening evidence of both the scale and speed of the destruction of major antiquities sites that are often of world-class importance.

Dr. Mattingly said in a recent interview that "the purpose of the Karak Resources Project is to document how the inhabitants of the Karak plateau have utilised available natural resources, including site location and access to local and long-distance trade goods."

To this end, the project "concentrates on the relationships between archaeological remains and their environmental contexts, primarily climatic factors, water resources, surficial geology, and geomorphology."

By studying how Karak's ancient and modern inhabitants have used natural resources (e.g., building stone, clay deposits, water resources, soils, plant communities, site positions, natural routes of travel), the project's documentation of the region's historical and cultural development should

prove important, in view of the "rapid demographic and economic changes that threaten the rich environmental and archaeological heritage of central Jordan," Dr. Mattingly said.

The urgency of documenting and preserving the antiquities of the Karak Plateau is reflected in the startling fact that the population of Karak governorate has increased from some 23,000 people in 1922 to over 175,000 today.

The Karak plateau, measuring 875 square kilometres, is a fertile upland plateau bounded on the north by Wadi Mujib (the biblical Arnon) and on the south by Wadi el-Hesa (biblical Zered). A steep escarpment on the west separates it from the Dead Sea Valley, while its eastern side gives way to the fringe of the Syrian Desert. One of the constant ancient themes of human activity on the plateau has been the interaction between the "desert and the town."

The extensive settlement of the plateau in antiquity has been documented by successive surveys and excavations by Jordanian and international scholars since late last century. The two most significant surveys were Nelson Glueck's work in the 1930s and the 1978-1983 survey sponsored by Emory University and directed by Maxwell Miller and Jack Pinkerton. A dozen major individual sites have been excavated — including Khirbet Mdeinet el-Mu'tajjal, Lejjun, Khirbet Faris, Balua, and Khirbet Mdeinet 'Aliya — and others are planned for excavation in the near future.

The Miller-Pinkerton survey (in which Dr. Mattingly participated) documented 443 ancient sites, some of which the KRP team has started to re-visit and examine yet again. One of the benefits of this approach is that it allows us to document the extent of damage in recent years, whether due to intentional robbing of sites or hap-

hazard destruction due to population and urban expansion, herding activities, and farming.

The Karak Plateau has been extensively inhabited since the Bronze Age, 5000 years ago, primarily because of its rich natural assets. It offers bumper crops of wheat, barley, and other crops, and its open countryside is ideal for pastoralism, especially sheep and goat herding. The evidence to date shows that much of the Karak plateau was rather intensively inhabited in almost every ancient period, and occasionally in prehistoric times. The plateau was the heartland of the biblical kingdom of Moab. One of the most famous Moabite kings — King Mesha of Dhibon (modern Dhiban) — was a wealthy and powerful leader whose wealth came largely from his people's sheep-herding, and he is known from both the Bible and his own inscribed stela recounting his victories over the Israelites.

The initial KRP season in 1995 comprised a survey and an intensive study at 17 of the sites located previously by the Miller-Pinkerton survey, and also photographed features from an additional 20 sites. The sites were chosen because of their substantial and varied surface remains, different topographic-environmental zones, evident surface pottery from many ancient periods, little or no signs of modern occupation, and, threats from modern agricultural, industrial, or

construction activities.

Some 1,400 diagnostic pottery sherds were collected (supplementing the 50,000 from Miller-Pinkerton) and other surface artefacts and specimens of raw materials around sites were collected in order to establish a database of raw materials used in regional construction, crafts, and industries. The origin of "exotic" or imported raw materials and products (e.g., alabaster, marble, granite) is important evidence of trade, and will be linked with textual sources and information about the region's system of roads, Dr. Mattingly said.

"We would like to determine in particular what the Moabites obtained from the peoples in neighbouring regions and what they had to offer in exchange," he added.

An alabaster block found at Madyat, for example, could indicate long-distance trade by some Moabite towns, though more firm archaeological contexts are needed to confirm or refute such hypotheses.

Five geology students from the University of Tennessee have examined pottery sherds, roof tiles, and basalt grain-processing tools, in order to define the characteristics and sources of the raw materials and the technology used to produce the ancient objects and tools. Dr. Otto Kupp, a clay mineralogist at the University of Tennessee, is continuing these studies.

The team of the second field season in 1997 revisited 36 sites from the Miller-Pinkerton survey, all located in the extreme southern and south-eastern parts of the Karak district, around the large site of Madyat. Thirteen new sites were also located and studied in 1997. Some of the pottery collected by the KRP has provided new dating for sites already dated by previous surveys, i.e. Byzantine period sherds were found for the first time at the large towns of Khirbet el-Mdaynat el-'Aliyah, and Iron I sherds were collected for the first time ever at Khirbet el-'Akkuzah.

Damage assessments

The KRP work is especially urgent in view of the fact that "the archaeological sites of this district are being damaged at a rapid pace," Dr. Mattingly said, because of "the ordinary, inexorable problems of population growth and economic development, and the expansion of commercial farming and its need for large tracts of land."

This is not a phenomenon of the 1990s only, for when Miller's team did their survey in the 1980s they found modern villages coming to life at many sites that Glueck had found abandoned in the 1930s. When revisiting some sites known from previous surveys, the KRP team found "serious recent damage at site after site." They recorded damage at some 40 sites in 1995 that had been documented previously.

Examples abound. Some pre-Islamic and Islamic era remains at el-Hamaymat SE, Khirbet el-Qaryayn, Madyat, and Khirbet el-Hawiyah have been re-arranged into modern sheep-pens; numerous illegal excavations searching for ancient artefacts have been taking place at Khirbet el-Qaryayn (which is also threatened with being completely over-run by the expansion of Karak town) and especially at Madyat, where an estimated 800 tombs have been pilfered; major



By Rami G. Khouri

parts of the site of Khirbet el-Hawiyah have been turned into a garbage dump; new roads, transmission towers, and/or bedouin encampments have eaten away parts of the sites of Madyat, el-Kfaraz, Khirbet el-Akkuzah, Khirbet el-'Abdah, and Khirbet el-Inshani; significant ancient structures noted by previous surveys have been stolen or dismantled and hauled away at Khirbet el-Inshani and Madyat; and, industrial-scale operations are underway to take ancient cut stones from Madyat, Early Bronze Age Lejjun, and several other sites, for use in modern buildings. Particularly discouraging is the systematic hauling off of the stones of Madyat's ancient north gate, for use in the construction industry. Large dump trucks are being used to haul away ancient stones at some of these sites, with few apparent efforts to stop this destruction of Jordan's (and all humankind's) ancient heritage.

The KRP is planned as a four-season endeavour that includes surveys, excavations, regional scientific studies, and follow-up on earlier surveys. One of its driving forces is the need to follow-up on sites visited by the Miller-Pinkerton team, because so many sites on the plateau are being damaged or even destroyed over time. Sites are being extensively photographed, so that at least images of sites will remain after some of them disappear under the hand of modern development or old-fashioned criminal theft.

Health

Leprosy target 2000 may be missed

By Mike Crawley

HOPE IS fading that health workers will conquer leprosy, one of the world's oldest diseases, by their stated goal of the year 2000.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) set the turn of the millennium as the target date for reducing the prevalence of leprosy to one case per 10,000 population, a figure that epidemiologists say would mean the disease is no longer a public health problem.

In 1991, when the target was announced, the overall prevalence in the 32 countries where leprosy is endemic was 11 per 10,000. The most recent statistics put the prevalence at 3.2 per 10,000, a vast improvement but still short of the mark.

"By and large we'll reach the goal, with the exception of about four or five countries," says Dr. Sheikh Noordeen, senior advisor to the WHO action programme for the elimination of leprosy.

The target will likely not be met in India, Brazil, Madagascar and in places where war has hampered elimination efforts, such as Mozambique, Afghanistan and Sudan.

"Having a goal of the elimination of leprosy as a public health problem has been very effective in that it mobilised the resources and mobilised the governments," says Terry Vasey, director of the British Leprosy Relief Association (Lepra).

But he adds, "I think the goal was slightly unrealistic when you consider the size of the logistics of the problem."

By any measure, the progress in fighting leprosy has been remarkable. The number of cases in the endemic countries in 1985 was four million; now it's down to 770,000.

Hampering progress, however, is the fact that the number of new cases iden-

tified each year is not dropping. An average of 600,000 new leprosy victims were identified every year in the 1990s and the trend shows no sign of changing.

The harder that health workers look, the more cases they find. In India — home to two-thirds of the world's leprosy cases —

'The harder they look, the more leprosy cases they find'

close to one million volunteers were trained for a massive search campaign in 1997. It covered the country and found 450,000 previously unidentified leprosy cases.

All this makes the task of reducing leprosy's prevalence a lot like mountain climbing: The last stretch before reaching the summit is the toughest part.

"The remaining task is quite formidable because we are getting into the most difficult parts," says Noordeen.

What has to happen next, says Noordeen, are more massive search campaigns like the one in India, and a big push to give communities the training, the resources and the drugs they need.

The success of the past decade came as a result of a multiple-drug therapy (MDT) that costs only \$36 and works wonders for curing leprosy. In addition, there has been huge financial backing for the fight against the disease, allowing MDT to be delivered to patients for free. Much of the funding has come from one source, the Tokyo-based Sasakawa Foundation, which has given over

\$100 million to WHO's anti-leprosy efforts in the past decade.

Vasey, who is also incoming president of the Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations, is worried about what he calls WHO's "triumphalist attitude" over the dropping prevalence rates. His concern is that it could backfire, prompting policy-makers and funders to believe that leprosy is no longer an issue.

If anti-leprosy work gets put on the back burner, there's a fear that leprosy could stage the same kind of comeback as tuberculosis, which health workers once thought they had conquered.

"It wouldn't take much for leprosy to creep back up to the numbers that were so horrific a few years ago," says Vasey.

He's supported in this view by Dr. Colin McDougall, a retired British leprosy specialist. He believes there's a short window of opportunity in the next few years to knock leprosy to the mat.

"If our efforts flag now, it's just possible that the moment may pass and we'll face a problem in the next century," says McDougall.

He says efforts "should be intensified and backed with appropriate funding."

Once leprosy reaches a low prevalence, the belief is that the infection will be transmitted much less frequently and the incidence of the disease will gradually diminish. But that will take a long time, partly because of leprosy's long incubation period and the difficulty of searching for leprosy victims in the endemic countries.

If the goal of eliminating leprosy is met — whether or not it meets the year 2000 target — the world will consign to the history books a scourge that has afflicted humans since the beginning of recorded time.

— Gemini News.

Firms deny free-cigarettes-for-kids charge

In Britain, with "Death" cigarettes on sale, everyone knows about the dangers of smoking. People in developing countries are often not so well-informed, and children in the developing world are now being targeted by unscrupulous companies marketing the lethal plant.

By Katy Salmon

GIANT CIGARETTE companies are using aggressive marketing tactics in the developing world that are illegal in the countries where they are headquartered. They are specifically targeting children and women.

Tobacco marketing restrictions, if they exist at all in these developing countries, are generally weak or poorly enforced. Only about eight have comprehensive tobacco marketing restrictions, compared with about 30 industrialised countries.

In Cambodia, for example, ice cream wagons are covered in adverts for Mild Seven cigarettes encouraging children to smoke.

"There's one rule for the rich and another for the poor," says Emma Must of the World Development Movement (WDM), which is campaigning for an end to this double standard.

"We need global rules because it's a global industry. What these companies cannot do at home, they should not be allowed to do overseas," she says.

WDM is calling on the British government to support the World Health Organisation (WHO) in pushing for a legally binding convention which would impose global standards on tobacco marketing.

The tobacco companies are targeting developed countries because of falling sales in their traditional mar-

kets in the industrialised world. Consumption per capita in developing countries fell by 10 per cent between 1970 and 1994. During this time, it rose by 67 per cent in developed countries.

"They have to find a way to feed the monsters they've built. Just about the only way will be to increase sales to the developing world," says Robert Morelli, a tobacco company employee.

The consumption of cigarettes per adult in developing countries is expected to exceed that in industrialised countries within a few years.

"In the developing world, rates are rising in direct response to the cigarette companies' marketing campaigns," says Amanda Sandford, of Action on Smoking and Health (ASH).

The South Korean experience seems to prove her point. Between 1987 and 1990, spending on tobacco advertising and promotion skyrocketed by 641 per cent.

Within the first year, smoking rates among teenage boys rose from 18 per cent to 30 per cent, says the World Health Organisation. The rate among teenage girls rose from under two per cent to nearly nine per cent.

The increased rate of cigarette consumption will have a devastating effect on health in the developing world, if present trends continue.

WHO predicts that deaths in

developing countries due to smoking-related diseases will rise from one million to seven million a year by 2030. Deaths in the developed world will grow from two to three million over the same period.

While new marketing techniques are blossoming in developing countries, Western governments are introducing heavy legislation to prevent cigarette promotion. As knowledge about the health risks of smoking increases, it is becoming less socially acceptable. In Britain, tobacco advertising on television and radio has been illegal for over a decade.

A European Union directive adopted in June will outlaw most tobacco promotion in Europe within five years. Advertising in newspapers and magazines will be outlawed by 2002. In the following year tobacco sponsorship of all events not organised at the world level will be banned.

In Britain smoking is now banned in many public places. In most workplaces, cinemas, restaurants and on public transport it is now illegal to smoke. In London it is common to see people buddled in office doorways, forced to go out on to the street to light up.

Toronto, Canada, has taken the most extreme step so far by banning smoking in all bars. It remains to be seen whether this idea will happen in other Western cities.

WDM fears that, as restrictions in the developed world tighten, tobacco marketing campaigns in developing countries will become even more aggressive.

It has accused Britain American Tobacco (BAT), of employing glamorous young women to hand out free cigarettes to kids and adults in video arcades and discos in Chile. BAT is the British company that makes brands like Lucky Strike, John Player, Silk Cut, Benson and Hedges, and Embassy.

Chris Proctor, a spokesman for the company, says: "I can't believe that's the case. We have strict marketing principles that we don't sell or market to children. Anyone that we caught giving a cigarette free to a kid wouldn't be with the company too long."

Emma Must, of WDM, replies: "We have so much evidence — photographs and eyewitness accounts. In Vietnam, BAT has just brought out rucksacks with Five Five Five — their brand over there — on them for adults and Five Five Five Light for kids."

"All the evidence points to the fact that they are targeting women and children using marketing methods that have been banned over here. They may be able to deny it now, but one day they will have to defend it in public."

— Gemini News

Antibiotic may prevent some heart disease

Reuters

A SIMPLE course of antibiotics may prevent many cases of heart disease, researchers said last Friday.

Their findings bolster studies that indicate bacteria may be responsible for some of the damage that leads to hardening of the arteries, stroke and heart attack.

Reporting to a meeting of the American Society of Microbiology in San Diego, Bill Fong of the University of Toronto and colleagues said tests on rabbits showed antibiotics prevented most

cases of atherosclerosis — hardening of the arteries.

Rabbits are often used as models of heart disease, because their arteries clog up in a way similar to humans.

Fong's team infected three groups of rabbits with chlamydia pneumoniae, a common bacterium that causes a respiratory infection.

Some of the rabbits were given the antibiotic azithromycin five days later, some got it six weeks later and the third group got no treatment. They were fed normal rabbit diets.

Fong found that 35 percent

of the untreated rabbits developed early-stage atherosclerosis, while 33 per cent of the rabbits given antibiotics at six weeks did.

But only 4.2 per cent of the rabbits who got the antibiotic five days after infection developed atherosclerosis.

Several teams have found chlamydia bacteria in the hardened plaques blocking the arteries, as well as helicobacter pylori, bacteria now known to cause stomach ulcers, and a virus known as cytomegalovirus.

Last year British researchers found that men

who had antibodies to chlamydia, indicating that they had been infected at some point, were four times more likely to suffer second heart attacks. Antibiotics lowered the risk. More studies are going on now to see if this proves true in larger groups.

Chlamydia pneumoniae is a very common infection, causing up to 10 per cent of all cases of pneumonia and symptoms ranging from cough to bronchitis. It is related to, but not the same thing as, a common sexually transmitted disease.

Gum infections have been linked to heart disease as well.

One theory is that bacteria from the infection — whether it is a gum infection or a chlamydial infection — cause chronic inflammation of the blood vessel lining. This would make it easier for fatty plaques to build up there.

But doctors point out that there are other factors more strongly involved in heart disease. These include smoking, a lack of exercise and a diet rich in saturated animal fats.

Jordan to discuss oil deal for 1999 with Iraq this week

AMMAN (R) — Jordan's Energy Minister Hani Mulki will leave for Baghdad on Monday to discuss renewal of an annual "oil-for-goods" barter deal to cater for most of the Kingdom's energy needs in 1999, officials said Sunday.

"We will discuss oil supplies from Iraq and satisfying our needs," Mulki told Reuters.

Since the 1991 Gulf War over Kuwait, Iraq has been exporting crude oil to Jordan under a protocol exempt from stringent U.N. trade sanctions.

The deal allows Jordan to cover its energy costs by providing goods in return worth just \$250 million, saving the treasury valuable hard currency.

Jordan contracted with Iraq this year for around 4.8 million tonnes of crude and varied petroleum products like fuel oil and diesel.

Mulki said Jordan's higher crude and products imports from Iraq in 1999 would be in line with the "natural growth in consumption of around five to seven per cent."

Discussion will also touch on cooperation in the energy field, including a pipeline project to replace costly transport of crude and products by tanker trucks, energy officials said.

Low oil price seen forcing Saudi reform

ABU DHABI (R) — Prolonged weakness in oil prices is likely to lead to gradual economic reform in Saudi Arabia but whether the world's biggest oil exporter will invite foreign expertise and funds into its oil and gas sectors is still anyone's guess, bankers and analysts say.

"Low oil prices may not be such a bad thing in forcing some change on subsidies, water, power and education," said a Western banker.

The banker, who recently returned from Saudi Arabia, said a memorandum was recently circulated asking Saudi officials to pay their mobile phone bills or risk being disconnected, in what was interpreted as yet another sign that the desert kingdom was trying to wean its people off state largesse.

As with most issues involving Saudi Arabia, which sits on the world's largest oil reserves, subtle nuances provide diplomats, economists and bankers with some insight on developments in the vast kingdom.

The memorandum followed a secret decree in May calling for a halt to new projects, 10 per cent cuts in some signed contracts, a freeze in state hiring and cutbacks in purchasing.

The belt-tightening was prompted by persistently low oil prices, which failed to pick up sufficiently despite Saudi-led output cuts this year.

Economists estimate Saudi oil earnings this year will be more than \$15 billion below the 1997 range of \$43 billion to \$51 billion.

Dean Murphy of the International Petroleum Exchange told a gas conference in Abu Dhabi last week that state-run Saudi Aramco was considering using the futures market to hedge against oil price fluctuations but there was no firm proposal yet.

Economists see at last a doubling of the forecast 18 billion riyal Saudi budget deficit on planned spending of 196 billion riyals. But they question whether the squeeze on spending will eventually prompt Saudi Arabia to embrace foreign investors in its state-run energy sector.

"Under normal circumstances, not a chance," said a Saudi-based economist. "But things are different now."

But he said Aramco had no need to import technology into a sector it has controlled since Saudi Arabia nationalised its oil industry in 1975.

A non-Saudi national with ties to Aramco said, however, that he would not now be surprised to see some form of foreign participation in the upstream oil sector or the relatively underdeveloped gas sector, where reserves are at 200 trillion cubic feet.

The difficulty was that Saudi Arabia's gas production was associated with crude oil, itself subject to quota restrictions within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Furthermore, low oil prices and a collapse in the main gas markets in the Asia-Pacific region did not encourage such investments just yet, the analysts added.

Oil and gas company executives are still trying to interpret the significance of Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah's meeting last month with top U.S. oil executives in Washington. Details of the talks have been kept secret but some reports suggested that King Fahd's heir apparent left open the possibility of some foreign involvement in the strategic sector.

"It was a trial balloon to test the waters both in America and at home,"

the non-Saudi oil expert said.

The chairman of Italian energy giant ENI made no secret of the fact that his company would line up to go into Saudi Arabia if the doors were opened.

"Qatar, the UAE and Saudi Arabia have an opportunity to considerably increase their role as gas exporters, or in the case of Saudi Arabia, enter the business, reversing the kingdom's traditional hostility to the very notion of gas exports," Moscato said.

Asked if perhaps the Saudi power sector, where demand is expected to treble in the next 25 years, might provide a back door into gas and oil, the banker said that was one possibility.

Saudi Arabia could also resort to more public flotations through its stock market as a way of utilising available funds rather than see expatriate remittances leaving the kingdom.

Other signs that Saudi Arabia was trying to tackle the loss in oil revenue were plans to establish private universities and possibly private hospitals — at present schooling and healthcare are free — and establishment of job training centres to allow Saudi nationals to gradually take over jobs now held by expatriates.

"I think you will see gradual change and low oil prices will make it easier for people to understand the need for change," the banker said.

UMS wins Specialised Investment Compounds Co. Account

UNITED MEDIA SERVICES (UMS) was recently appointed to handle the Specialised Investment Compounds Company account (Al Tajamout). Al Tajamout is the Kingdom's leading firm in the field of property development.

Formed in 1994, Al Tajamout is a public shareholding company with a capital of JD10 million. The majority of its stock is owned by the most prominent names in banking, finance, investment and insurance fields. Al Tajamout aims at developing several plots of land into industrial, Commercial and Tourist compounds. In

this regard, the company's key project was Al Tajamout Industrial City. Al Tajamout Industrial City, which is located near the Amman Central Grain Silos, is the largest privately owned industrial estate in Jordan. It occupies 300,000 M2, which will accommodate in excess of 2000 units. Al Tajamout has become the first complex to provide a complete package of essential services including: maintenance, water and electricity, 24-hour security, outdoor lighting and others. All buildings in the city are constructed in accordance with the highest design criteria worldwide.

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.6135	0.5849	1.3105	116.35	1.6378	1697.90	1.2006	5.4127
DE Mark	0.6197	1.0000	0.3621	0.5123	72.03	0.9824	989.60	1.1280	3.3532
GB Sterling	1.7096	2.7606	1.0000	2.2418	198.87	2.6287	2732.41	3.1132	9.2587
CH Franc	0.7631	1.2300	0.4455	1.0000	88.65	1.1727	1217.91	1.3877	4.1256
JP Yen	0.0088	1.3880	0.5020	1.1258	1.0000	1.3204	13.71	158.32	4.6476
CA Dollar	0.6504	1.2815	0.4225	1.0666	1.32	1.0000	1270.80	1.4551	4.3266
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0104	0.3660	0.8821	1374.00	0.9826	1.0000	11.40	3.3880
NL Guilder	0.5483	0.8861	0.3211	0.7199	63.89	0.8445	876.82	1.0000	2.9723
FR Franc	0.1648	0.2983	0.1080	0.2430	21.49	0.2842	33.65	33.6500	1.0000

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7090	3.7475	0.3770	3.6399	0.2975	3.6728	1602.00	3.4026
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	1.0000	5.2856	0.5317	5.1339	0.4196	5.1903	2119.48	4.7990
Saudi Riyal	0.2668	0.1892	1.0000	0.1006	0.97	0.0794	0.98	400.80	0.9079
Bahrain Dinar	2.95	1.8808	9.9411	1.0000	9.66	0.7882	9.74	3984.40	9.0289
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	1.0296	1.0296	1.0000	0.0817	1.01	412.65	0.9348
Kuwait Dinar	3.3813	2.3832	12.5966	1.2671	12.23	1.0000	12.38	5048.74	0.9348
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0203	1.0203	0.9910	0.0810	1.00	408.95	0.9264
Lebanese/1000	0.57	0.4720	2.4950	0.2510	2.4234	0.1981	2.4453	1.0000	2.2653
Egyptian	0.2939	0.2084	1.1014	0.1108	1.0688	0.0574	1.0794	441.44	1.0000

Energy		
Oils	Last	Previous
Brent	0.00	0.00
W. Texas	14.05	14.05
Bonny	0.00	0.00
Dubai	11.60	12.36
U.L. Gas	142.00	142.00

Mid-East Currencies				
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF
SA Riyal	0.2668	0.4308	0.15609	0.34988
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.43958	0.15929	0.357
KW Dinar	3.3813	5.42594	1.96169	4.40723
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.28266	1.56169	3.47826
CY Pound	2.0869	3.3683	1.22	2.7353

Metal Prices		
Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	299.25	298.75
Silver (oz's)	4.89	4.92
Platinum (oz's)	342.5	344.5
AL (3 Months)	1369	1362
CU (3 Months)	1623	1927
Zinc (3 Months)	957	962
Lead (3 Months)	498	503
NI (3 Months)	3875	3895

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)				
Period	-1-	-3-	-6-	-12-
Cncy	Month	Months	Months	Year
USD	5.4077	5.3433	5.1572	4.9081
GBP	7.4270	7.2725	7.0622	6.7881
JPY	0.3378	0.4014	0.4545	0.5027
DEM	3.5000	3.5933	3.5619	3.5000
FRF	3.5000	1.3258	1.4039	1.5000
CHF	1.2002	3.5605	3.5410	3.5195
ITL	4.9360	4.6460	4.1440	-

Energy		
Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	106.75	Spot
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1963	Spot
Sugar (\$/ton)	222.7	Spot
Wheat (\$/ton)	124	Spot
Soya (c/lbs)	24.81	Spot
Tea (stg/lb)	125	Spot
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot
Rice (\$/ton)	395	Spot

JOD Cross Rates		
Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.2096	1.2165
DE Mark	0.4329	0.4351
CH Franc	0.5323	0.535
FR Franc	0.1292	0.1298
JP Yen	0.5963	0.5998
NL Guilder	0.3838	0.3857
IT Lira	0.4374	0.4396

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

AMIR programme sponsors customs training to prepare for the new customs act

THREE WORKSHOPS, sponsored by the AMIR programme during October 1998, focused on the planning, organisation and administration of customs valuation in Jordan. This was the first in a series of training initiatives that the AMIR programme will support as part of its efforts to improve the environment for business growth in Jordan. The AMIR programme is a four-year economic opportunities activity fund-

ed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The workshops, which brought together more than 40 officers from customs offices throughout Jordan, reviewed plans and activities developed in light of the proposed introduction of a significantly amended customs act, scheduled to be implemented on Jan. 1, 1999.

Among the major changes contained in the

new act are the introduction of new methods for the determination of the customs value of goods imported into Jordan. The methods conform to the international recognised standards put forth by the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Jordan, which is currently negotiating full WTO accession, will on Jan. 1, 1999, begin to apply these new valuation procedures.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- Corner joint
- Blivouac
- Wanes
- Wear away
- Radcliffe
- Solo's princess
- Cornic overlapping novelist
- Writer Seton
- Possesses
- Tire patterns
- Women's
- Cacophony
- Special prosecutor Kenneth
- Garden of
- Guy's dates
- Drag behind
- Commonplace
- Marquis de
- Cry of distress
- Comic overlapping novelist
- Keats poems
- Veteran sailor
- Buenos
- Hipster
- Oodles
- Noah's son
- Sinatra song
- Life
- Train unit
- Suffix for approximations
- Ressce
- Helium or argon
- Arm bone
- Actor overlapping boxer
- Only just
- facto
- Fabric fold
- Comics barks
- Comment
- Wrens and larks

DOWN

- Winner's award
- Tehran resident
- Singer overlapping publisher
- Writer O'Brien
- Actor Alejandro
- "Over There" composer
- Fusses
- "Mr. "
- Ebbler
- Fuld or Gantry
- Acres
- overlapping playwright
- Tight spot
- Without
- Dilute
- Mmes. of
- Cold-cut palace
- Anwar of Egypt
- Rowan and
- Radys
- Highlanders
- Formerly
- Chinese cooking pans
- Colt. hotshot
- Radames' beloved
- Squabbles
- Theater sword
- Arcane
- Cowardly Lion's
- Kilaua flow
- Window element
- Residences
- Tippy craft
- J.C. or Sammy
- Male red deer
- mater
- Salacious stare
- Heart of the matter
- Jamaican fruit
- Sch. in
- Blackburg
- Police call letters

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"I spoke to a lawyer today. If I continue to neglect my health, I can sue myself for negligence."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TADPA

DYSIA

CORCUN

ENMIRE

Ans: HER

Yesterday's

Jumbles: HENNA DAUNT IMPEOE OSSIFY

Answer: Always felt by a successful bungee jumper — TENSION

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron

It's softer your hands. Fine — charge it.

WHAT SHE PUT HER SKIN CREAM ON.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Business
A re
Retail
FURNISHED OR
UNFURNISHED
3200 VILLA FOR RENT
35 sq.m., 3 bedrooms
4 bathrooms
Main room, garden,
garage, telephone
Abdoun Real Estate
330005 - 079/530007
TOUR TAXI SERVICE
SECURE
LONDON TAXIS
AIRPORT SERVICE
ALL OCCASIONS
TEL: 4126379
077390/6271 ANYTIME

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

'Retailers must show any increased cigarette prices on packs'

**** RETAILERS ARE** raising prices of local cigarettes by 50 fils per pack amid denial by manufacturing companies that prices were raised since the decision to float the prices of cigarettes. "The ministry will monitor the prices in the local market and will find out the reasons of the increase and whether it is justified or not," the minister of industry and trade said.

An official source said supply control teams will conduct a comprehensive survey to check cigarette prices at retail shops and take the appropriate measures in this regard.

Asked about the rise in prices, a retailer said the decision to float prices has permitted selling cigarettes at whatever price a retailer wishes in light of supply and demand. Some types of cigarettes are in demand more than other brands.

Rajai Salfiti, general manager of the Union Tobacco Company stressed that there is no justification to raise prices as the supply and demand in the market did not change from what it used to be before the floating of prices. He indicated that the companies did not benefit until now from the floating decision as they opted to maintain the prices without change to keep their share of the market.

Salfiti said the sales and distribution have stayed at their previous level but "some traders are hiding some brands in an attempt to push up their prices." He emphasized that

the companies continue to supply the market with its normal needs of all types of cigarettes.

According to one of the merchants, the decision to float the prices "has left the pricing ceiling open to the traders but without exaggeration." He said that the profit margin left to the retailers is small and, as such, raising the price is acceptable from this standpoint.

Companies are still fixing selling prices on the packs of cigarettes which are sold in the market at different prices. An official at the International Tobacco Company said the firm did not raise prices and has nothing to do with the higher prices. "This is a purely individual matter that is often stirred by the merchants themselves," he added.

The International Tobacco official indicated that the firm or the producer cannot oblige the merchants with the price fixed on the pack. "Traders have reacted in a totally chaotic manner with the floating decision and consequently prices differ from one place to another," he said.

Mohammad Abu Hazim, director of the Amman Supply Department agreed that the prices fixed on the pack are not obliging to the traders and should be seen only as indicators. "The trader should announce the retail price on the pack by crossing out the factory price," he said stressing that if new prices are not announced on the pack it would be considered a violation (A) Ra'i).

U.S. brokers post worst quarterly results in years

NEW YORK (R) — Three large U.S. securities firms have reported their worst quarterly results in years, telled by global financial turmoil and a slowdown across key businesses such as bond trading and underwriting.

The largest U.S. brokerage, Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc., reported its first quarterly loss in almost nine years and said it would lay off 3,400 people, or five per cent of its work force, to restore profitability.

The job cuts come as other Wall Street houses, such as financial services company Citicorp's Salomon Smith Barney securities unit, are starting to hand out pink slips as revenues from businesses such as underwriting have all but dried up.

Merrill lost \$164 million, or 42 cents a share, in the third quarter due to a \$288 million net charge to pay for severance costs. Excluding the charge, Merrill earned \$124 million, or 28 cents a share, down from a profit of \$502 million, or \$1.24 a share, in the year-ago quarter and well short of Wall Street expectations of 45 cents a share. Net revenues declined seven per cent to \$3.8 billion, from \$4.1 billion a year ago.

Dunaldson Luitkin & Jenrette (DLJ) posted its worst quarterly results

since the investment bank went public in 1995 because of a \$234 million net loss from trading and market making in emerging market securities and high-yield, or junk bond, securities. DLJ earned just \$25.7 million, or 15 cents a share, in the third quarter, down 79 per cent from the \$120.3 million, or 93 cents a share, it rang up a year ago.

The firm's revenues from underwriting dropped 59 per cent to \$122 million in the quarter, as investor appetite for debt and stock offerings all but dried up in volatile markets worldwide.

Overall net revenues were down 30 per cent at \$695 million, from \$989 million a year ago.

PaineWebber Group Inc., which derives most of its revenues from brokerage, was less hurt by

the global financial turmoil and posted a 27 per cent decline in third-quarter net income to \$82.9 million, or 50 cents a share. This compared with a \$112.8 million net income, or 70 cents a share, in the year-ago quarter, and was a penny above Wall Street expectations.

A sharp drop in trading revenues to \$148.5 million from \$289.3 million a year ago caused PaineWebber's overall earnings to decline, although commission and asset management revenues hit record levels in the quarter. Overall net revenues declined 4.7 per cent to \$1.03 billion, from \$1.08 billion a year ago.

In a sudden reversal of fortunes, U.S. securities firms are seeing some key businesses grind to a halt and their shares

pounded by investors worried about potential trading losses and losses to investment funds for the wealthy, or hedge funds. The near bankruptcy of Long-Term Capital Management of Greenwich, Conn., last month spurred fears of other hedge funds going belly up.

"Because of the uncertainties now apparent in the global economy, we anticipate a much more challenging environment ahead," Merrill Chief Executive David Komansky said in a statement.

Brokers were ringing up record profits and hiring people in droves in the first half of the year because of a strong U.S. stock market, record stock and debt offerings, and a flood of corporate merger deals. Now Merrill and others are starting to lay off employees, just

as the industry employed a record 663,400 people across the nation in August, up 10 per cent from a year ago.

Wall Street houses that reported earnings for the quarter ended Aug. 31 — Goldman Sachs & Co. Inc., Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. and Lehman Bros Holdings Inc. — all posted double-digit profit declines.

Wall Street's reversal of fortunes is reflected by Goldman's recent decision to shelve its plan to go public because global financial turmoil had depressed the firm's potential value. Brokerage shares have fallen more than 50 per cent from their July highs, which meant Goldman partners would pocket million of dollars less in a stock offering than they originally planned on.

Prices as at 10/19/98		10/19/98	
USD	CAD	IL	MLG
118.58	1.5878	1.5875	1.2289
72.53	1.5878	1.5878	1.1706
198.57	2.5857	2.7324	1.9102
82.55	1.5878	1.5875	1.2177
1.58	1.5878	1.5875	1.2177
174.50	1.5878	1.5875	1.2177
61.53	1.5845	1.5875	1.2177
21.45	2.5842	2.5875	1.2177
21.45	2.5842	2.5875	1.2177
Prices as at 10/19/98		10/19/98	
CAD	KWD	AFD	LRD
1.5878	1.5875	1.5875	1.2289
1.5878	1.5875	1.5875	1.2289
1.5878	1.5875	1.5875	1.2289
1.5878	1.5875	1.5875	1.2289
1.5878	1.5875	1.5875	1.2289
1.5878	1.5875	1.5875	1.2289
1.5878	1.5875	1.5875	1.2289
1.5878	1.5875	1.5875	1.2289
1.5878	1.5875	1.5875	1.2289
1.5878	1.5875	1.5875	1.2289
Mid-East Currencies		Mid-East Currencies	
USD	DEM	GBP	CHF
1.5878	1.5875	1.5875	1.2289
1.5878	1.5875	1.5875	1.2289
1.5878	1.5875	1.5875	1.2289
1.5878	1.5875	1.5875	1.2289
1.5878	1.5875	1.5875	1.2289
1.5878	1.5875	1.5875	1.2289
1.5878	1.5875	1.5875	1.2289
1.5878	1.5875	1.5875	1.2289
1.5878	1.5875	1.5875	1.2289
1.5878	1.5875	1.5875	1.2289
Currency Deposit Rates (Bd)		Currency Deposit Rates (Bd)	
Period	Rate	Period	Rate
1M	1.5875	1M	1.5875
3M	1.5875	3M	1.5875
6M	1.5875	6M	1.5875
1Y	1.5875	1Y	1.5875
2Y	1.5875	2Y	1.5875
3Y	1.5875	3Y	1.5875
4Y	1.5875	4Y	1.5875
5Y	1.5875	5Y	1.5875
6Y	1.5875	6Y	1.5875
7Y	1.5875	7Y	1.5875
8Y	1.5875	8Y	1.5875
9Y	1.5875	9Y	1.5875
10Y	1.5875	10Y	1.5875
11Y	1.5875	11Y	1.5875
12Y	1.5875	12Y	1.5875
13Y	1.5875	13Y	1.5875
14Y	1.5875	14Y	1.5875
15Y	1.5875	15Y	1.5875
16Y	1.5875	16Y	1.5875
17Y	1.5875	17Y	1.5875
18Y	1.5875	18Y	1.5875
19Y	1.5875	19Y	1.5875
20Y	1.5875	20Y	1.5875
21Y	1.5875	21Y	1.5875
22Y	1.5875	22Y	1.5875
23Y	1.5875	23Y	1.5875
24Y	1.5875	24Y	1.5875
25Y	1.5875	25Y	1.5875
26Y	1.5875	26Y	1.5875
27Y	1.5875	27Y	1.5875
28Y	1.5875	28Y	1.5875
29Y	1.5875	29Y	1.5875
30Y	1.5875	30Y	1.5875
31Y	1.5875	31Y	1.5875
32Y	1.5875	32Y	1.5875
33Y	1.5875	33Y	1.5875
34Y	1.5875	34Y	1.5875
35Y	1.5875	35Y	1.5875
36Y	1.5875	36Y	1.5875
37Y	1.5875	37Y	1.5875
38Y	1.5875	38Y	1.5875
39Y	1.5875	39Y	1.5875
40Y	1.5875	40Y	1.5875
41Y	1.5875	41Y	1.5875
42Y	1.5875	42Y	1.5875
43Y	1.5875	43Y	1.5875
44Y	1.5875	44Y	1.5875
45Y	1.5875	45Y	1.5875
46Y	1.5875	46Y	1.5875
47Y	1.5875	47Y	1.5875
48Y	1.5875	48Y	1.5875
49Y	1.5875	49Y	1.5875
50Y	1.5875	50Y	1.5875
51Y	1.5875	51Y	1.5875
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59Y	1.5875	59Y	1.5875
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61Y	1.5875	61Y	1.5875
62Y	1.5875	62Y	1.5875
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93Y	1.5875	93Y	1.5875
94Y	1.5875	94Y	1.5875
95Y	1.5875	95Y	1.5875
96Y	1.5875	96Y	1.5875
97Y	1.5875	97Y	1.5875
98Y	1.5875	98Y	1.5875
99Y	1.5875	99Y	1.5875
100Y	1.5875	100Y	1.5875

Wild card Sampras beats Kucera for Vienna title

VIENNA (R) — Pete Sampras made full use of a wild card handed over by Boris Becker to beat Slovak Karol Kucera 6-3 7-6 (7-3) 6-1 in the final of the CA-Trophy on Sunday.

Sampras, who is bidding to end 1998 as the world's No. 1 for a record sixth consecutive year, ensured his top ranking for the next two weeks with his first title since Wimbledon.

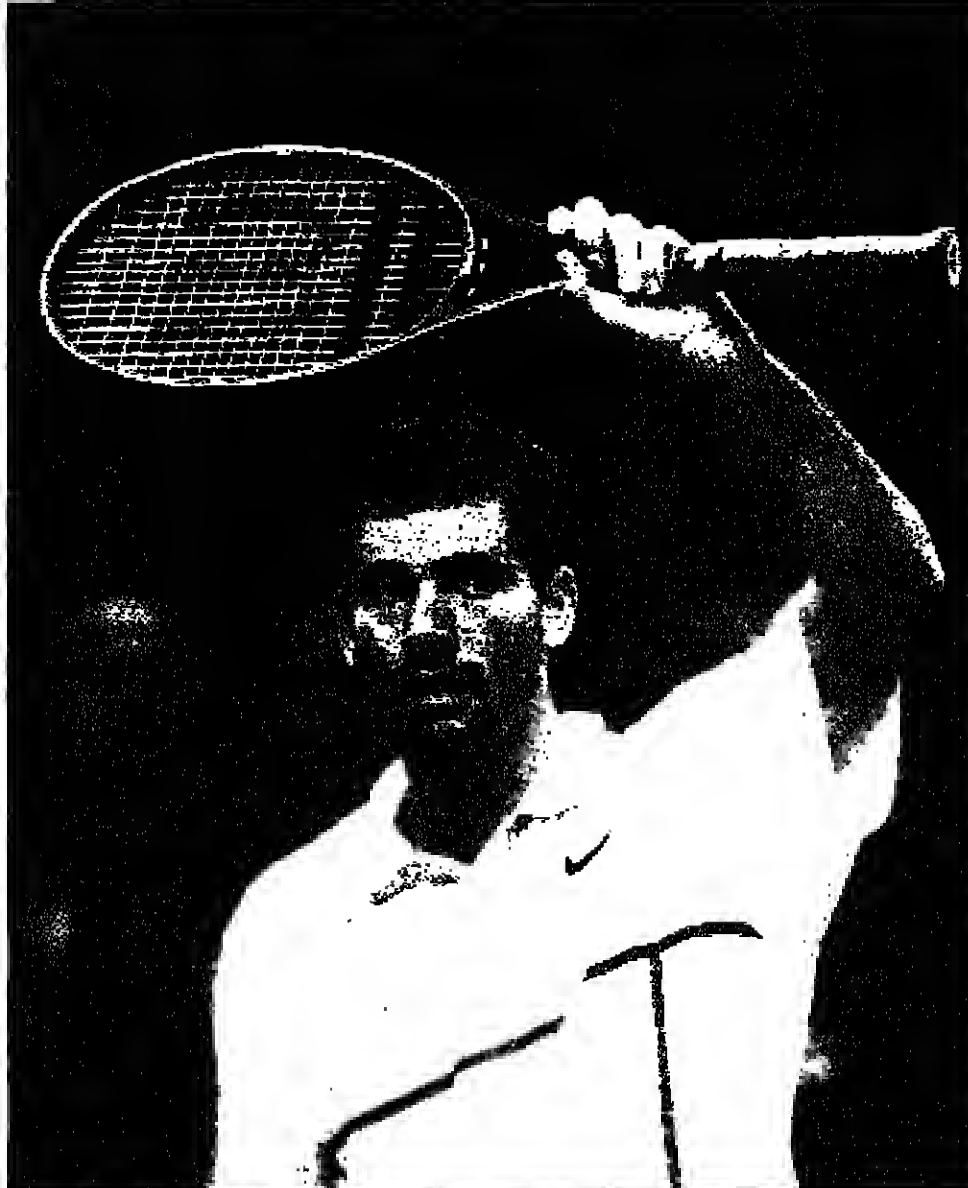
The 27-year-old American was given the wild card by Becker for "sporting reasons" after losing in the first round in Basel last week.

Sampras, who now has 22 indoor titles and 56 in all, needed only a single break in the third game against fifth seed Kucera to take the first set in 31 minutes.

He broke again in the first game of the second set before his form wavered and he dropped serve for 4-4. But Kucera handed Sampras the set in a tiebreak with a double fault and too many errors at the net.

The Slovak, who began the year ranked 25th and entered the top 10 in April, had no reply to Sampras' big serves in the third set and dropped set twice in the second and fifth games.

Sampras' has won three further titles this year — Wimbledon, Philadelphia and Atlanta.



Pete Sampras from the U.S.A. holds up his racket after winning against Karol Kucera of Slovakia in the final of the Austrian indoors tennis open October 18. Sampras won the final 6-3 7-6 6-1 (Reuters photo)

McEnroe beats Leconte in seniors final

SYDNEY (AFP) — Feisty John McEnroe challenged authorities to kick him out of tournaments if they had the courage after beating Frenchman Henri Leconte in the final of the Champions Senior Tennis Tournament here Sunday.

The abrasive American fired a familiar-sounding broadside at officials after disposing of Leconte 6-4, 6-2.

"If I break the rules and someone has the balls to bust me then let them do it," he said defiantly.

McEnroe's comments came after an explosive semi-final on Saturday during which the American insulted Australian chair umpire Wayne McKewen.

McEnroe, angered at a line call, then went on to abuse Swedish opponent Mikael Pernfors and members of the crowd.

But "Mac the Mouth" remained unrepentant Sunday.

"It's exactly what people want but then they get mad at me. That was nothing compared to what I am capable of," 39-year-old McEnroe said.

McEnroe said tennis needed an overhaul and referees and officials should be held more accountable for their actions.

"Fun is not making bad calls. I don't see the fun in that," he said.

"We've butchered the game to the point where almost no-one cares — let's see if we can do something about it."



World No. 1 Lindsay Davenport of the United States holds up her trophy after beating compatriot Venus Williams 7-5 6-3 to win the European indoor championships in Kloten. It was the sixth title of the season for Davenport (Reuters photo)

Davenport dazzles Williams in European Championship final

ZURICH (AFP) — Lindsay Davenport confirmed her status as World No. 1 with victory over a below par Venus Williams in the European championships final here Sunday.

The top seed successfully defended her title with a 7-5 6-3 verdict over Williams who failed to raise her game to the level she had attained en route to this all U.S. showdown.

The key to the match on the lightning fast indoor surface was always going to be the service, and in this department Davenport proved the stronger.

The popular 22-year-old, who had complained of tiredness going into the competition, stamped her authority early on, breaking Williams in the third game.

But her bearded opponent immediately nullified the early advantage, fighting back to level at 2-2.

With both players finding their service rhythm the first set was always destined for a tie break, but the second seed slipped up with some unforced errors when serving at 5-5 to leave Davenport only having to hold serve to take the first set 7-5.

The second set was characterised in the opening exchanges by three love service games.

Williams, who made a catalogue of unforced errors on her normally deadly forehand, squandered five gilt edged chances to break serve, with Davenport getting out of jail on each occasion by stepping up a gear.

The U.S. Open champion then clinched the issue on her first match point to maintain her fine record in Switzerland.

As Williams ruefully pointed out at the presentation ceremony: "Lindsay never loses here, I should have known that going into the match."

Davenport added: "I seem to play better tennis in Switzerland, that's four tour wins in a row here. I love this country."

As the winner embarks on a well earned rest there was no respite for her vanquished opponent who had an engagement back on court later in the afternoon in the doubles final.

Hoddle offers hope to troubled Gazza

LONDON (AFP) — Paul Gascoigne has been handed the incentive of a possible return to the England squad by coach Glenn Hoddle in a bid to focus the troubled midfielder's mind during his recovery programme.

Hoddle, who had urged the wayward star to seek help several times in the past, was relieved that he had finally checked into a hospital last week to sort out his problems with alcohol, stress and depression.

The England coach said he realises that the 31-year-old has only taken the first small step on the long road to recovery, but Hoddle is convinced that he can still resurrect his career.

Hoddle has offered him a target — England's next Euro 2000 qualifier against Poland at Wembley on March 27 — to help him overcome his difficulties.

"That is way within his range. I hope he gets himself and his game back within shape within two months," said the England coach.

"He's got to sort himself as a person. The player doesn't come forth if the person doesn't get himself right first. But we'll just have to keep the door open and give him that incentive."

"It's a sad, sad situation but at least he's done it. There were many concerns. But that's only one little stepping stone, he's got to make many, many more if he's going to overcome it all."

"If we can get him back to how he was just over a year ago, though, then he's got to threaten to get back into the squad."

Gascoigne's difficulty in coping with fame and the ensuing scrutiny of his private life, the breakdown of his marriage and his apparently addictive personality have all contributed to his downfall.

His former Middlesbrough teammate Paul Merson, himself a recovering alcoholic, believes that it was the midfielder's axing from England's World Cup squad that finally tipped him over the edge.

Hoddle, who took what was in the end a largely uncontroversial decision in view of Gascoigne's increasingly obvious preference for alcohol, cigarettes, kebabs and late nights out rather than getting himself fit, differs with that point of view.

He insists that if it had been the main factor in his downfall, Gascoigne would never have been able to start the season again before finally admitting he had a problem after a four-day drinking binge in Dublin last week.

Alcohol, it would seem, is the key to Gascoigne's problems and Hoddle, like his predecessor Graham Taylor a full five years earlier, had been one of many people urging him to seek professional help.

"I encouraged him, but Paul is Paul and at the end of the day, sometimes you go 50 per cent there and then the 50 per cent has to come from the person," explained Hoddle.

"Many people who have been around him, even some of the players, we've all said that Paul has to make his own decisions."

"At the end of the day, it's got to come down on somebody's shoulders and there's only one person."

"Now he's prepared to take a look at himself and say, perhaps for the first time, that maybe, just maybe, a lot of this is down to him."

Asian Football Confederation chief calls for cheating clampdown

BANGKOK (AFP) — The general secretary of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said on Sunday the grouping will investigate teams suspected of cheating by fielding over-aged players.

Peter Velappan delivered his message to a meeting of team officials at the 31st Asian Youth Football Championship in Chiangmai for players aged under 19 which opened on Saturday.

He warned that the "noose" was tightening around the neck of those involved, the AFC said in a statement.

"The chorus for action on this form of cheating is growing and the AFC will not shirk its responsibility," he said.

His remarks were prompted by complaints that the under-16 final round won by

Thailand last month involved several players believed to be overaged.

"We are in the process of appointing a team to visit the countries involved for an in-depth investigation," he said.

The statement did not indicate what attempts would be made to ensure that teams participating in Chiangmai do not cheat.

Asian football's image was severely tarnished during the Tiger Cup Football championship in Vietnam, where Thailand and Indonesia both tried to lose the game, resulting in both teams being fined.

There have been oew allegations about match-fixing in leagues in several AFC member countries along with arrests of players, bookies and even referees.



Valencia's player Gaizka Mendieta (R) is tackled by Athletic Bilbao's player Roberto Rios (C) in front of Julen Guerrero. Athletic Bilbao won 2-0 (Reuters photo)

Real back atop Spanish League

MADRID (AFP) — A flash of brilliance by international striker Raul helped put Real Madrid back on top of the Spanish league following a seven-goal thriller Saturday at Zaragoza.

Raul's superbly-executed lob just before the break set up a 4-3 triumph in which Fernando Hierro, Roberto Carlos and Predrag Mijatovic were also on target.

Real, who slumped to a shock defeat against struggling Betis a week ago, now lead the table by a point from Zaragoza.

There was no less excitement back in the capital, where three players were sent off and 14 booked as Atletico Madrid beat Tenerife 2-0.

Atletico's Brazilian midfielder Juninho scored from the spot but was then dismissed, while two other Samba stars — Tenerife's Andre Luis and Juninho's former Middlesbrough teammate Emerson — were also red-carded.

Roberto made it 2-0 for Atletico in the dying seconds.

Yet another Brazilian — Everton Giovaneola of Salamanca — was sent for an early bath in a 1-1 draw at Barcelona, who are just fifth following their fourth draw in six games this season.

One of Barca's many Dutchmen Philip Cocu fired the Catalan giants ahead after 58 minutes but Edu Alonso rescued Salamanca a point with the equaliser four minutes later.

In the white-hot atmosphere at Zaragoza, Fernando Hierro put European champions Real ahead from the penalty spot after 12 minutes and Brazilian wingback Roberto Carlos made it 2-0 within five minutes.

Former Aston Villa striker Savo Milosevic pulled one back at the midway point of the first half with a tap-in but Raul's stunning effort sent

Real 3-1 up just before the break.

Argentine Gustavo Lopez gave Zaragoza hope at 2-3 on the hour but deadly Yugoslav Predrag Mijatovic hit Real's fourth on 72 minutes before another Argentine, Kili Gonzalez, struck back to leave Real with their noses in front — but only just.

Raul's sixth of the season made him the league's leading scorer.

Claude Makelale, Juan Sanchez and ex Celtic striker

Jorge Cadete all scored with fine strikes as Vigo travelled to Betis and came away with a fine 3-0 win which puts them "fourth" level "no points" with Atletico and Barcelona.

Champions League participants Athletic Bilbao are sixth following a 2-0 home win over Valencia, mirrored in the lower reaches of the table. Ismael Urzaiz and Julen Guerrero were the men on target for the Basque outfit.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHADIF & TANNAN HIRSCH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q. 1 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: A 765 QK 4768 QK 64 A6	opener's suit.
The bidding has proceeded: NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST 14 Pass 10 Pass 20 Pass 7 Pass What do you bid now?	Q. 4 - East-West vulnerable, as South you hold: AKK 987 0108 QAK 68 A6
A - In the modern style, North's reverse is forcing for one round. South's first duty, holding a five-card major, is to rebid it. Otherwise South bids two no trump with a minimum and a stopper in the unbid suit, or creates a forcing auction by supporting one of partner's suits at the three-level. Therefore, bid two hearts, planning to show your diamond support next unless partner raises hearts.	The bidding has proceeded: NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST 14 Pass 10 Pass 20 Pass 7 Pass What action do you take?
Q. 2 - East-West vulnerable, as South you hold: AS CQJ 107 QAK 1065 AK 952	A - You cannot be sure whose hand it is, but you are certainly going to compete to five spades. However, it does not harm to bid diamonds along the way. It will give partner a better idea of how to proceed should the opponents bid on.
The bidding has proceeded: NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST 14 INT 10 2s Pass Pass What action do you take?	Q. 5 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: AKK 987 0108 QAK 68 A6
A - Your double announced that the hand belongs to your side and asks partner to grant you the right of way. Partner has obliged, and the way to thank him is to double. This hand, short in opener's suit, is classic for such action.	The bidding has proceeded: NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST 14 Pass 10 Pass 20 Pass 7 Pass What action do you take?
Q. 3 - As South, vulnerable, you hold: AAS 01078 CQJ 1065 AAS	A - Another textbook hand. Values for an opening bid, shortness in opener's suit and support for all the unbid suits. If you don't make a takeout double with this hand, when will you?
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?	Q. 6 - As South, vulnerable, you hold: AJ 4 QAK 10876 08 AA 945
A - This is a perfect hand for a jump shift to three diamonds — a powerful hand, rich in controls, with a source of tricks and a fit for	The bidding has proceeded: NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST 14 Pass 10 Pass 20 Pass 7 Pass What action do you take?
	A - West's preempt has achieved its purpose — any action you take is fraught with danger. However, if you elect to do nothing you are giving the opponents license to steal you blind. Bid four hearts and hope partner has the right stuff for you.

TODAY AT	PHILADELPHIA '1'	PHILADELPHIA '2'	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2	Husban Yanes Theatre
	Kevin Sorbo .. in KILL THE CONQUEROR Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Bruce Willis .. in LAST MAN STANDING Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Comedian Mohammad Huneidi .. in SAEEDI AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD '1' NASSER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' UP CLOSE & PERSONAL Shows: 3:30, 5:30 only	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria Comedian Mohammad Huneidi .. in SAEEDI AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria Harrison Ford ... in SIX DAYS SEVEN NIGHTS Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Watch out for the new play

Rios wins Singapore Open

SINGAPORE (AFP) — World No. 3 Marcelo Rios on Sunday finally broke the jinx dogging top seeds in Singapore when he outplayed Australian Mark Woodforde 6-4, 6-2 in the final of the \$700,000 Singapore Open ATP Tour tennis tournament.

The Chilean became the first player to win the tournament after getting the top billing. This was his seventh ATP Tour title of the year.

In the past six Singapore Open tournaments, no top seed had even made it to the final, except Michael Chang in 1996 when he lost to the then qualifier Jonathan Stark. Rios showed no mercy to his 33-year-old opponent, blasting winner after winner from the baseline. The Chilean, 10 years younger than Woodforde, got his main weapon — the down-the-line pass — working right from the word go and never let up.

It was always a struggle for Woodforde, the oldest man in the tournament, to keep pace with his fitter rival.

The first break of serve materialised in game five once Rios, winner of the Grand Slam Cup in Hannover, Germany two weeks ago, had worked out Woodforde's gameplan.

The Australian was rushing to the net at every opportunity and once the Chilean began to find the mark with his passing shots, it was effectively curtains.

The experienced Woodforde did change his strategy and began using the slice more often to draw Rios to the net, not the favourite part of the court for the former World



Marcelo Rios of Chile raises the champion's cup Sunday after winning the Singapore Open. World No. 3 Rios defeated Australian Mark Woodforde 6-4 6-2 to claim the \$107,000 cash prize (Reuters photo)

No. 1.

The tactics did seem to work when Woodforde managed to recover from a break down in the second set. But again Rios was more than a match as he found the angles even with his not-so-fierce volleys.

Rios broke Woodforde's next two service games as again the Australian decided to serve and volley. The top seed did have a few hiccups closing out the match when he double faulted on the first match point and then faced a break point with a casual

forehand.

But sensing trouble, he came up with big serves to be greeted with a standing ovation from the near capacity crowd at the Singapore Indoor Stadium.

The Chilean leaves \$107,000 and 250 ATP points richer.

Woodforde had to remain content with the runner-up prize of \$56,100 though his rankings are sure to jump with the 175 ATP points plus the bonus points for defeating second seeded Croatian Goran Ivanisevic, a top 20 player.

Jordan Basketball Federation board resigns

Issue will have serious consequences on sports in Kingdom — Majdoub

By Aileen Bannayan

AMMAN — The president of the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) Sunday warned that the resignations which led to his team's resignation would have serious consequences on Jordanian sports.

Mudarr Majdoub made his comments hours after the minister of youth and culture received the JBF's mass resignation letter Sunday morning.

The resignation followed over a month of controversy and strained relations between the JBF and Al Jazireh Club after the latter recently withdrew their players from the national basketball team on the eve of the team's departure to an international tournament in Taipei.

With four key players missing in the lineup, Jordan finished sixth in the ten-team tourney.

After the mediation of the Ministry of Culture and Youth, the JBF asked Al Jazireh's players to rejoin the team. However, Al Jazireh, whose basketball team is sponsored by Aramex, declined and suspended all their players from JBF activities citing "bias against the club."

The issue remained unresolved even after a meeting with the JBF which imposed a JD4,000 fine and suspended Jazireh's withdrawing players for two seasons.

The JBF's resignation decision seems to have followed the Oct. 15 meeting with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Culture and Youth Thouqan Obeidat, fol-

lowing which the ministry issued a statement saying the "problem had been solved with all sides upholding the interests of the national team and the game."

Majdoub explained that the meeting had not resolved the issue since Al Jazireh "were allowed to air their grievances and get away with their mistake without reprimand while the JBF was not given the chance to present their side of the case."

"We did not say that our decision would be reversed following the meeting. The JBF had endorsed the suspension and fines according to ministry regulations. We believe that they should be resolutely implemented without bias."

"Disregarding regulations sets a serious precedent to any club or player to repeat the same. It will have serious repercussions on sports in general," Majdoub noted.

He added that the JBF was willing to reconsider the issue had there been a goodwill gesture on the part of Aramex officials and Al Jazireh's board.

However, Majdoub explained that the problem was further complicated when Al Jazireh failed to consult the JBF and sent their team to a tournament in Beirut under Aramex's name on the same day both sides met with the ministry.

"This added fuel to the fire. It clearly demonstrated that their was no goodwill on their part. They deal with the JBF as Al Jazireh Club whenever their interests are at stake, but disregard us and don

Araxex's name whenever they choose not to."

Majdoub said the invitation to the Lebanon tourney was initially to Al Orthodox Club, who consulted the JBF and agreed not to participate since the national team is currently training.

"Jazireh's move to take part under the Aramex name shows that they have completely disregarded regulations and have no respect for the ministry's or the JBF's regulations."

"This is exactly why such issues should not be solved in the passive manner of the secretary general. The way he handled the issue overlooked official regulations set by his own ministry."

Majdoub said the JBF was preparing the team for the Pan-Arab Games and that all parties needed to cooperate to make it a success.

"This is just the beginning of preparations for such a big event hosted in the Kingdom. We will have more tournaments and many differences in opinion are bound to pop up," he said.

"Clubs cannot withdraw their players whenever they have a problem with the coach or federation. There are other ways to resolve such issues. Unfortunately, our relations with Al Jazireh-Aramex seem to have come to a dead end. It no longer serves the game if they continue in this manner."

The JBF president said Al Jazireh had referred to other issues

like the cancellation of the women's as well as most age-group categories which he said was decided after consulting the clubs.

Majdoub explained that in the case of the U-14 tourney only two teams participated. "Both clubs agreed to play three friendly matches and we provided referees and medals."

"In the U-18 case, the national team was regrouped for the West Asian Zone tournament. We could not have organised a competition at the same time, so we delayed it."

"Why should we be biased against any club when we are working on a voluntary basis for the good of the game," he added.

Majdoub cited that the JBF had a neutral position and noted that only recently Al Jazireh's head of basketball operations Fadi Sabbah was coach of the Arab All-Stars while Jazireh's centre Ma'an Odeh was the only Jordanian on the lineup of the team who faced a group of NBA players in celebration of opening new facilities at Beirut's Al Riyadi Club.

The JBF resignation letter was signed by Majdoub and board members Nu'man Asfour, Musa Hudeib, Jamal Zaki, Nayef Radaydeh, Wasim Zu'mot and Rajai Sukkar.

Al Jazireh's officials were not available for comment.

United win 5-1, home in on Villa

LONDON (AFP) — Manchester United stepped up their title challenge by thrashing Wimbledon 5-1 on Saturday, while runaway English Premiership leaders Aston Villa were held to a goalless draw at West Ham.

United were in irresistible form at Old Trafford as they out Villa's lead to four points but there was disappointment for reigning champions Arsenal who were held to a 1-1 at Highbury by basement club Southampton.

In other matches, the Merseyside derby between Everton and Liverpool ended goalless. Newcastle celebrated a 2-1 win over Derby and Chelsea beat Charlton by the same score after an 88th-minute winner.

Middlesbrough came from behind to beat Blackburn 2-1 while 10-man Leeds drew 1-1 at Nottingham Forest.

At Old Trafford, Ryan Giggs scored on his comeback after a three-week

injury lay-off while Andy Cole struck twice and David Beckham and Dwight Yorke grabbed the other goals as United swamped Wimbledon.

United manager Alex Ferguson, whose squad have been hit by a string of early-season injuries, was delighted by his side's biggest win of the season.

"Some of the football in the first half was superb and we should have been a lot of goals up at half-time," Ferguson said.

"We got a warning when Wimbledon equalised, but Ryan Giggs' goal right on half-time sealed the match."

Double winners Arsenal were left to regret missing a handful of chances as crisis club Southampton secured only their second point out of a possible 27 when David Howells equalised Nicolas Anelka's opener.

Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger accused his team of lacking a killer instinct, but was also furious with referee Jeff Winter, who turned

down a trio of confident penalty appeals by Arsenal and was jeered throughout by the home fans for a string of amazing decisions.

Newcastle United manager Ruud Gullit hailed what he described as his side's best performance since he took over from Kenny Dalglish six weeks ago as the Magpies survived a concerted fightback by Derby.

"We learned a lot again from the last 15 minutes," said the Dutchman. "That's when I saw in certain moments people keeping the ball, being professional, and playing for the result. The way we interpreted the game was excellent."

Liverpool joint manager Roy Evans claimed his team were unlucky not to have their first win over their Merseyside rivals in five years after the 0-0 draw at Goodison Park.

Leeds, who had full back Danny Grawville sent off after 31 minutes, battled to a 1-1 draw at Premiership new boys Forest.

Williams, Seles head Moscow entries

MOSCOW (AFP) — American players Venus Williams and Monica Seles head a strong entry for the \$926,250 Ladies Kremlin Cup WTA tour event which begins here on Tuesday.

Vitaly Yakovenko, Russian tennis association press officer, told AFP the field, which features 11 of the world's top 20 players, is the strongest in the history of the event.

Organisers expect Conchita Martinez, Natalie Tauziat, Patty Schuyder and Mary Pierce to play with local favourite Anna Kournikova likely to be one of the eight seeds.

But back injury has ruled out Czech Jana Novotna from defending the title. The winner of this year's tournament will receive \$150,000 and a silver trophy by Cartier.

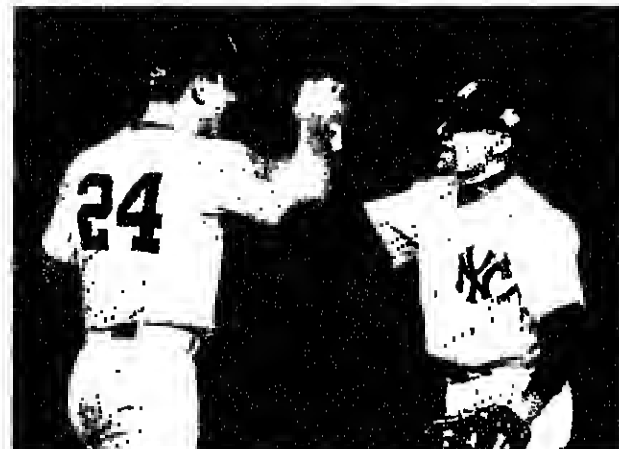
Yankees beat Padres 9-6 in series opener

NEW YORK (AFP) — The Bronx Bombers have found redemption.

Tino Martinez and Chuck Knoblauch, whose playoff mistakes made them targets for angry fans, cleared their names and the bases to rally the New York Yankees past San Diego 9-6 to open the 94th World Series.

Martinez led the Yankees by batting in 123 runs this season but drove in only one in the playoffs with only five hits in 33 times at bat in the post-season for a club affectionately known as the Bronx Bombers.

Knoblauch's mental error of not fielding a ball in the American League Championship Series led to a Yankee defeat and he joined Martinez in being booed by the notoriously tough crowds



New York Yankees Chuck Knoblauch (R) and Tino Martinez slap hands after the Yankees defeated the San Diego Padres 9-6 in Game 1 of the World Series (Reuters photo)

at Yankee Stadium.

The bumble brothers became siblings in success here Saturday by powering a

three-run homer.

"Tino and I have been trying to keep each other up," Knoblauch said. "You try to lift each other up. I was probably more excited when he hit his home run than when I hit mine. It was a great feeling."

Knoblauch, who came here this season from Minnesota, tried to quickly put his fielding faux pas behind him.

"Throughout the season it's a roller coaster ride, ups and downs. You hope you're able to stay consistent," Knoblauch said.

"You have to let it go. There's nothing you can do to change it. You have to move beyond it."

Martinez was happy to end his batting slump but happier to see Knoblauch draw a curtain call from the sellout crowd of 56,712.

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Iraq calls for improved relations with Turkey

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan called Sunday for improved relations with Turkey, at a meeting with Turkish Minister of State Mehmet Battali, the official news agency INA reported.

"Developing bilateral relations is linked to a political decision, free from the pressures of foreign parties which give priority to their own interests," said Ramadan.

The vice president was

referring to the United States which has taken a hard line against the lifting of U.N. sanctions in force against Iraq since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Iraq was "ready to deepen its historic relations and open new horizons for cooperation" with Turkey, Ramadan said.

Baghdad's relations with Ankara have been strained by Turkish military incursions into northern Iraq in pursuit

of Kurdish rebels and by a dispute over the sharing of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

But Iraq named a new ambassador to Turkey earlier this month after a one-year gap. The appointment followed Turkey's decision to send an ambassador to Baghdad, the first since 1992.

Battali arrived in Baghdad on Saturday at the head of a 21-member delegation for

trade talks and to discuss repairs to an oil pipeline between the two countries.

The talks will also cover possible new contracts for Turkey to sell foodstuffs to Iraq under the U.N. oil-for-food programme.

The programme allows Iraq to sell crude in return for humanitarian supplies. Turkey, a key trading partner of pre-sanctions Iraq, says it has lost \$33 billion because of the embargo.

Palestinian bishop at centre of Israel-Vatican row takes office

HAIFA (AFP) — A Palestinian bishop who was at the centre of an acrimonious row between the Israeli government and the Vatican earlier this year took office this weekend.

Monsignor Boutros Muallem, the new Greek Catholic bishop of Acre, conducted his first Mass in the Church of Saint John in Israel's third city Sunday after a lengthy audience with Pope John Paul II earlier in the week.

Muallem's nomination sparked a public protest in August from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Netanyahu charged that the Vatican chose Muallem over an Israeli Arab cleric preferred by his government under pressure from a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation member, Farouk Kaddouni, and Hilari Capucci, an exiled Palestinian cleric who was once jailed by Israel on charges of smuggling arms.

Netanyahu's attempted intervention drew an angry rebuke from Rome and threat-

Jerusalem's holy sites key to peace — Vatican

CAIRO (AFP) — Solving the disputes over Jerusalem's holy sites is the key to peace in the Middle East, Vatican Foreign Minister Jean-Louis Tauran said Sunday.

"It's clear that there will not be peace as long as the problem of the holy sites and places of worship in Jerusalem is not resolved," Monsignor Tauran told reporters following a meeting here with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"The Vatican believes it is essential to insure that these sites do not belong to any one party but are available to the whole world," he said.

In September the Arab League called on the Holy See to provide clarification on an agreement signed between Israel and the Vatican late last year to formalise the status of the Roman Catholic Church in the Jewish state.

The agreement stipulates that the accord is applicable "where Israeli law is observed," which from an Israeli point of view includes contested Arab east Jerusalem, illegally annexed by Israel and home to the Holy Sepulchre.

The Holy Sepulchre is the holiest of Christian sites, where many Christians believe the body of Jesus Christ is buried.

The Vatican does not recognise Israel's annexation of Arab east Jerusalem, and the Holy See has underlined that the agreement it signed with Israel does not concern Jerusalem, for which it wants international protection.

Tauran said he had discussed with Mubarak "ideas on the peace process and the future of Jerusalem."

ened to sour Israel's sensitive relations with the Vatican, which insists the appointment of bishops is the church's responsibility alone.

An Israeli official later acknowledged that it was "highly unusual anywhere in the democratic world" for a

government to attempt to block a Vatican appointment.

Rabbi David Rosen, a negotiator between Israel and the Holy See, described the incident as an "unfortunate misunderstanding" which had led to "a great deal of anger and a great deal of indignation" in

the Vatican. Rosen, the director of the Israel office of the Anti-Defamation League, helped reach an historic accord between Israel and the Vatican last year formalising the position of the Roman Catholic Church in areas under Israeli law.

Clinton rejoins summit

(Continued from page 1)

summit and would greatly welcome a convincing foreign policy success.

Israel Army radio said on Sunday that the United States was threatening Israel with recognition of a Palestinian state but Israeli officials flatly denied it. "I find it [the report] difficult to imagine," added U.S. spokesman Rubin.

Clinton, accompanied by Vice President Al Gore, arrived at the Wye Plantation in casual clothes and went straight into internal talks with his foreign policy advisers.

The president then had a meeting with Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and newly-appointed Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon. They were all expected to have lunch with Netanyahu and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

The talks have been the longest and most intensive at this level for years between Arab and Israeli leaders, comparable only with the Camp David summit that ended in

agreement between Egypt and Israel in 1978.

Clinton took an active part on Saturday in discussions on land and security issues with Netanyahu and Arafat. He met alternately with both leaders in a relaxed atmosphere at the plantation, staying until late in the evening.

Central Intelligence Agency Director George Tenet also participated in Clinton's sessions with Netanyahu and Arafat, underscoring a focus on resolving Israeli security demands crucial to any agreement.

Palestinian negotiators said progress was achieved on many security issues during Saturday's meetings. Senior Israeli delegation sources said the talks were tough but that their key demands had not been met by the Palestinians.

An Israeli official repeated that assessment on Sunday. The Palestinians had not satisfied Israel on curbing incitement of violence and on convening the Palestine National Council to change the Palestine National Charter, he said.

King responding positively to treatment — Mayo Clinic

(Continued from page 1)

"I never said those things. During the visit and in response to journalists' questions, I reiterated my deep impression with the King's indomitable spirit, his confidence and full control of the situation," Sharon said.

"During the meeting I told King Hussein: We need you and your experience. Stay strong as you are now, and I am convinced that we will enjoy your presence in this region for many years to come. We need your courage, your experience as the most veteran statesman in the Middle East, and your help in promoting and achieving a stable peace in the region."

Firmly denying the Israeli report, Tarawneh said on

Sunday he was "assured and very optimistic" about the King's health.

Tarawneh said the fourth and latest cycle of chemotherapy administered to the King had been delayed for consultations with top doctors from various U.S. institutes and was "a little bit more powerful than the first three."

But he said the doctors had wanted to ensure that the King was "totally free and clean" when he completed his scheduled course of six chemotherapy sessions.

"[The doctors] just want to make sure that, when he comes back, he will not be more vulnerable or subject to relapse in a short period of time," said Tarawneh, who visited the King around 10 days ago at the Mayo Clinic.

Arab Israeli MPs to visit Damascus in show of support

CAIRO (AFP) — The 11 Arab Israeli members of the Knesset, Israel's parliament, will visit Syria to express their support for Damascus in the face of "Turkish-Israeli threats," one of the MPs said Sunday.

"The Arab MPs will express their solidarity with the Syrian people in the face of Turkish-Israeli threats," Abdel Wahab Al Darawsheh told a press conference here.

Turkey has threatened military action against Syria over its support for the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which has been waging a rebellion against Ankara in the mainly Kurdish southeast of Turkey since 1984.

Damascus for its part has denounced the 1996 military cooperation pact between Turkey and Israel as "satanic."

Darawsheh, who did not

specify when the Arab delegation would go to Damascus, added that the group also plans to visit Jordan.

His remarks came just before the 11 MPs were to return to Israel following a three-day visit with Egyptian officials here.

It was the first time a delegation of Arab Israeli deputies had made an official trip to Cairo since Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty in 1979.

Last year a group of 50 Arab Israelis, among them six MPs, made the first official visit to Syria since the state of Israel was founded in 1948. They were received by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Arab Israelis — descendants of Palestinians who refused to flee their homes when Israel was created in 1948 — make up 13 per cent of the country's population of six million.

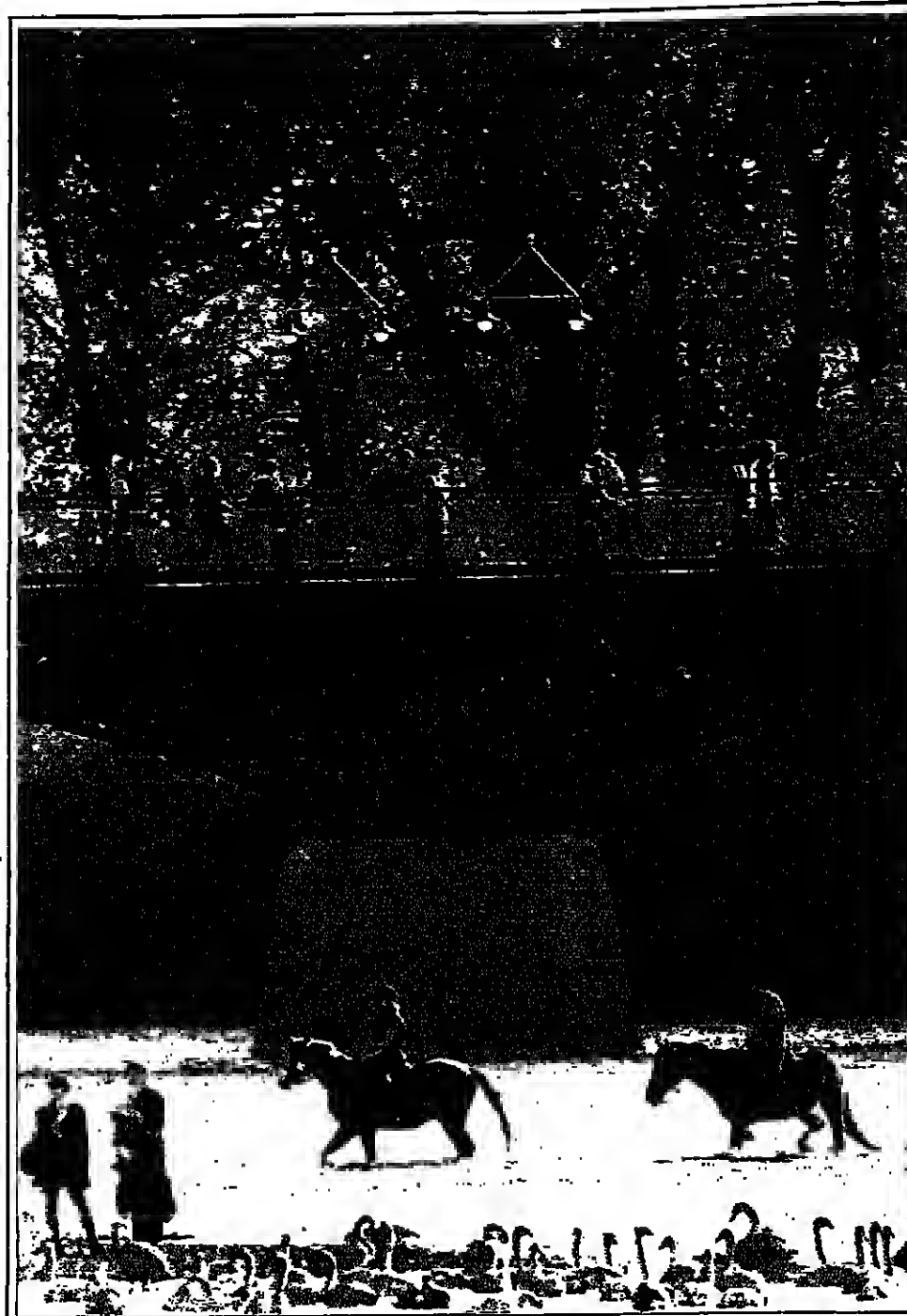
visit to His Majesty King Hussein, who is being treated for cancer in Minnesota.

"He also became a hostage to the wishes of his American hosts, who preferred he stay and focus on the talks. He did not like this," the negotiator told Reuters.

Palestinian and Israeli officials, including Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, have been isolated at the Wye Plantation resort outside Washington since Thursday to try to hammer out an agreement that would end 19 months of deadlock in peace moves. Officials said they expect to remain in seclusion until Monday.

Unlike the green, scenic Wye Plantation, Arafat's home is in poverty-stricken Gaza, where he leads a hectic lifestyle.

There he spends most of his time



AUTUMN AFTERNOON: Strollers enjoy the golden autumn light and walk over Munich's Thalkirchner bridge and watch a flock of swan as riders cool off their horses in Isar River on Sunday. Temperatures rose up to 20 degrees Celsius in mid-October (AFP photo)

'Saddam has teenage son'

DUBAI (AFP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has a teenage son called Ali whose existence has been kept secret, an Iraqi defector said in an interview published on Sunday.

Abbas Al Janabi, who described himself as the private secretary of Saddam's eldest son Uday, said 13-year-old Ali was the son of Samira Shahbandar, whom the president wed in the 1980s despite protests from his first wife Sajida.

Ali is "heavily guarded and the press does not mention him because of Uday, who detests this half-brother and doesn't talk to him," Janabi told the London-based Arabic newspaper Al Hayat.

"Uday doesn't even like his real brother, Qusay, so what are the odds for the half-brother?" asked the defector.

Al Hayat said the interview

was carried out in a European capital. Janabi first sought refuge in an Arab capital but was the target of a failed assassination bid, before fleeing to Europe, it said.

The paper did not say when Janabi defected. He was chief editor of the daily Babel and the sports newspaper Al Baath Al Riyadhi, both of which are owned by Uday.

"There's a contradiction between Uday's aspirations and those of his father," said Janabi. Hussein wants to prepare his eldest son for succession but "Uday's only ambition is to make money and collect luxury cars," he said.

Janabi said Uday had "more than 1,300 luxury cars, including 160 stolen from Kuwait," during the Iraqi occupation of 1990-1991.

The president, furious with Uday for shooting and wound-

ing his uncle Waiban in August 1995, ordered a garage where Uday kept 13 cars to be set on fire, the defector said.

Three Rolls-Royces, three Porsches and two Ferraris were destroyed. "But I know Uday has at least five or six other garages," said Janabi.

The defector also said he was a witness when Uday beat his father's aide-de-camp Kamal Hanna Jejo to death with a cane in 1988, accusing him of having played the go-between for Hussein and his second wife.

"He beat him savagely, and in public," said Janabi, adding that President Hosni Mubarak's wife Suzanne was also present and broke off her visit to Iraq the next day.

Uday himself was seriously wounded in a December 1996 assassination bid in Baghdad that left him hospitalised for six months.

41 dead in Egypt train accident

CAIRO (AP) — At least 41 people were killed Sunday when a train jumped its tracks at a north Egyptian station and plowed into people, the ministry of interior said.

More than 80 people were injured, the ministry's statement said. Police said earlier that about 200 people had been injured and more deaths are expected.

Officials put the toll discrepancy down to the confusion at the scene.

Egyptian television showed a crane raising one of the overturned train cars as scores of riot police fend-

ed off hundreds of waiting people.

The train was travelling from the port of Alexandria to Kafr Al Sheikh when it derailed in the station of Kafr Al Dawar, a town about 30 kilometres south-east of Alexandria, the ministry said.

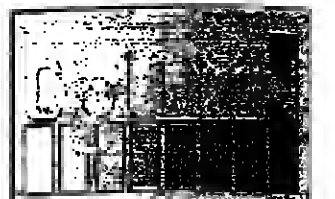
The train went off the rails when the driver changed tracks "at high speed," the statement said.

The locomotive and the first two passenger cars toppled over and careened through people and kiosks on the station platform, the ministry said.

First reports said the train had crashed into houses near the railway, but the ministry's report did not confirm this.

A senior railway official, Mahmoud Marei, said the driver was speeding because free-riding passengers had tampered with the brakes system between the cars. Egypt's official Middle East News Agency reported.

Such trains are usually packed with hundreds of commuters and it is not uncommon for people to hitch a ride on the roof and between the cars.



Fortensky arrested for domestic violence

INDIO (AP) — Larry Fortensky, the blue-collar ex-husband of American actress Elizabeth Taylor, was arrested for investigation of felony domestic violence against his girlfriend. The 46-year-old Fortensky was booked Friday for allegedly beating the woman, whose name was withheld, said Riverside County sheriff's Detective Mark Wasserman. Fortensky was jailed, with bail set at \$25,000. Taylor's seventh husband, he met the actress while both were being treated for addictions at the Betty Ford Centre. The actress and the construction worker married in 1991 and were divorced five years later.

Ginger Spice in East Africa

ENTEBBE (AP) — The singer formerly known as Ginger Spice was in East Africa this week being filmed in a British charity programme. Geri Halliwell performed in a piece to be broadcast by the charity Comic Relief. "I've enjoyed being in Uganda. It was good for me to get away," Halliwell told reporters Thursday before boarding a flight at Entebbe Airport. Formerly known as Ginger Spice, Halliwell, 26, quit the group in June.

Sherpa guide fastest climber of Mount Everest

KATMANDU (AP) — A Sherpa guide, determined to be the fastest climber of Mount Everest, scaled the world's highest peak in 20 hours and 24 minutes Saturday, expedition organisers said. Kaji Sherpa, 34, started his trek from the 5,300 metres base camp Friday afternoon and reached the 8,848 metres high summit Saturday afternoon. Bad weather and high winds forced Kaji to slow down for three hours after he reached 8,700 metres in the morning.

Climbers usually take two to four days to make the climb from the base camp to the summit in favourable weather conditions and with breaks in camps in between.

World's tallest residential complex, Trump's latest project

NEW YORK (AP) — The sky's still the limit for Donald Trump's dreams. The American magnate says his latest real estate project "The Trump World Tower" — an 262-metre monolith — will be the world's tallest residential complex. The \$360 million building will house condominiums starting at \$1 million. The building will have 72 floors, but the lobby's vaulted ceilings will make it the equivalent of 90 floors. Demolition began Friday on the vacant office building occupying the site near the United Nations.

Camilla to play hostess to European royalty at Prince Charles' birthday

LONDON (AFP) — Prince Charles' long-standing partner will take one more step towards public acceptance when she acts as hostess to a clutch of European royalty for Charles' 50th birthday, it was reported Sunday. Camilla Parker Bowles, the British heir to the throne's mistress during his marriage to Diana, Princess of Wales, will be at the prince's side when he greets royalty from Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, the Mail on Sunday said.

Two civilian
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